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 PAGE 35



**ALTERNATIVE HEALTH**  
**Power of touch**  
 Medicine or magic? Day one of a two-part investigation  
 PAGES 11 and 17

**12 PAGES OF TOP SPORT**  
**Chelsea revival**  
 Gullit inspires the Blues to a five-goal feast at Stamford Bridge  
 PAGE 21



**Inquiry call as franchise is halted**

## Rail sell-off undermined by fraud claim

By JONATHAN PYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans for a high-profile launch of rail privatisation were left in disarray yesterday as ministers faced demands for a criminal investigation into allegations that a new private operator was involved in ticket fraud.

The sale of the London, Tilbury and Southend service, known as "The M10 Line", was stopped by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, just ten hours before it was due to go ahead.

At 2am yesterday, the first private companies took control of scheduled passenger services since the railways were nationalised in 1948.

South West Trains from Waterloo to Hampshire and Dorset, and Great Western to South West London and Surrey, will run 1,000 trains a day.

LTS was due to take over its service at the same time but a routine audit by British Rail accountants on Thursday uncovered "a serious breach" of ticket revenue allocation rules, involving up to £30,000 a month.

The revenue due to London, Tilbury and Southend, which shares several stations with LTS Rail, are believed to have been re-routed to the train operator's bank although there has been no question of personal financial gain, Colin Andrews, the commercial director of the LTS management team, resigned on Friday.

Department of Transport officials were told immediately and Chris Kinchin-Smith, the managing director of LTS Rail, informed his five-year board on Friday that Mr Andrews had resigned.

Ministers spent Friday pondering whether the sale of the franchise should be stopped. On Saturday, a story appeared in a national newspaper and the BBC's South East television programme reported Mr Andrews's resignation. Sir George decided to ditch the sale at around 3pm on Saturday.

Brian Wilson, the shadow transport spokesman, said yesterday he had written to the Director of Public Prosecutions urging an immediate inquiry because the breach involved public money. "This is not an internal matter for the Government," he said.

Labour will seek to exploit the issue again on Wednesday when they have a Commons debate on rail privatisation. Sir George played down the postponement of the franchise. "This is a momentous day for the railways and I hope that in years to come

people will look back on today as a turning point — the point at which the renaissance of the railways began," he said.

"We would have liked to have got three out of three away today but we have got two out of three... I hope we can sort out the matter of LTS Rail quite soon. It is a good bid, they have promised new rolling stock and an improved service."

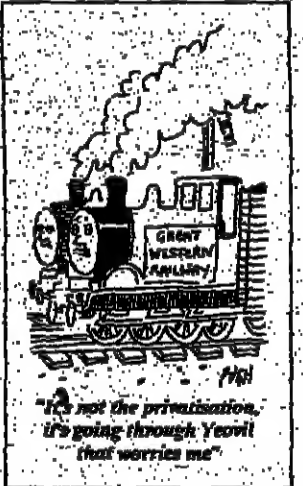
However, he could not disguise the damage inflicted on the Government by the affair. Ministers had hoped that it had weathered the worst of the political storm over its highly unpopular rail privatisation proposals.

Experts said the incident raised new concerns about the structure of the new rail franchises, in which dozens of private operators must co-operate over the allocation of ticket revenue. Twelve franchises, almost half those up for sale, have to share revenue with London Transport.

It was claimed that the first privatised train was in fact a bus when engineering works forced South West Trains' 112am Sunday service from Waterloo to Southampton Central to finish at Eastleigh, Hampshire. Passengers had to disembark and board a bus for the last five miles.

"It is a fiasco," said Mr Wilson, who was at Eastleigh station at 3am yesterday morning to meet the bus. "The first train has turned out to be a bus and there's going to be an awful lot of that under privatisation."

Leading article, page 17



It's not the privatisation, it's going to happen, that worries me

## Ashdown on attacks alert

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN and his family are bracing themselves for further trouble after being warned by police that they are facing a vendetta by a few of his constituents in Yeovil.

The police are worried about malicious allegations linking the Liberal Democrat leader to a message parlour. Mr Ashdown is known to be bewildered by recent attacks on him, including the petrol bombing of his car last week.

The accusations concerning a message parlour six doors away from the Liberal Democrat headquarters in Yeovil could be made under the legal protection of court proceedings on Thursday before magistrates in the town. Mr Ashdown is said to deny all allegations emphatically and to be prepared to counter the

false claims. Mr Ashdown and his wife, Jane, spent the week-end at their home in Norton, sub-Hamdon. The police have taken the threats so seriously that surveillance equipment was installed in the garden.

Mr Ashdown, a former officer in the Special Boat Squadron, has tried to shrug off previous attacks. In the past couple of months, a window of his car has been smashed with a stone, he has had threatening letters and said he was held at knife-point during a late-night investigation of alleged race attacks on local restaurants. The attacks on his car are thought to have been carried out by local criminals angry at his campaign launched last year to crack down on racially-motivated attacks in his constituency.

Two years ago, City Girl, a message parlour, was closed down by the Liberal Democrat-led local council over planning irregularities. Peter Stoodley, the former owner of the parlour, was later jailed for six months for living off immoral earnings. He is now trying to sell a story to a national newspaper based on unfounded allegations linking Mr Ashdown to a former woman employee of City Girl.

Yesterday a leading member of Mr Ashdown's Partnership Against Racial Harassment said the false rumours were being spread by people angry about the MP's stand on racism.

Violence in Yeovil, page 3

## Police say gangs are ousting godfathers

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has more than 300 criminal gangs with between 5,000 and 10,000 members who pose a greater threat than the Triads, the Mafia and the Yardies, according to a police report on organised crime.

The report, drawn up by senior detectives from 11 forces, will show that a new breed of young gangster is ousting the traditional underworld families. The gangs are supported by 300 top criminals who finance their operations.

They operate across towns and cities, making their money from an ever-expanding trade in drugs, theft of performance cars, serious fraud and armed robbery.

Although violence is used in "turf wars", there is so much criminal business available that the gangs do not need to compete, it says.

The report is to be circulated to Chief Constables this month, will show that police are ill-prepared to deal with the growing threat because of poor co-operation between forces, parochial attitudes and inadequate intelligence.

Chief Constables are already making plans for the creation of a new national CID unit, and MIS is being brought in. At a private briefing to discuss the plans last month, Colin Phillips, the assistant Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, said: "The biggest threat is now from local criminals who organise themselves for a common purpose. There is no godfather who runs everything."

New kingpins, page 5

## Woman firefighter dies in blaze

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A YOUNG woman became the first female firefighter to die on active duty yesterday when the roof of a blazing supermarket collapsed after she went inside to check for trapped people.

Fleur Lombard, 21, was hit by falling debris after entering the building with another officer. He went home after treatment for facial burns, cuts and bruises.

The two were found and pulled clear by six colleagues after becoming trapped minutes after fighting their way into Leo's supermarket in Staple Hill, near Bristol. Paramedics tried to revive Miss Lombard but she died minutes after reaching hospital.

Miss Lombard had been a firefighter for about two years. She was one of the first women to join the 700-strong Avon

Fire Brigade full-time, having served in Derby as a part-time retained firefighter. Only a handful of women have taken the opportunity to become firefighters since Britain allowed them to serve on active duty in 1982.

Her father, Roger Lombard,



Lombard: searched for trapped people

a businessman, of Furness Vale, New Mills, Derbyshire, said: "We were extremely proud of her. She died doing what she wanted to do."

"She achieved one extremely high distinction of being the first female fire officer to be awarded the Silver Axe." The honour goes to the best recruit on each course.

Rob Seaman, 27, the officer in the building with Miss Lombard, was recovering at home last night with his wife, Sarah, and their six-month-old daughter.

John Terry, Avon deputy chief fire officer, said: "Our job was to get in straight away and that was what she did. She died doing her job. Everyone in the brigade is absolutely devastated."

The alarm was raised about midday by Sylvia Anstey, 45, who lives near by. She said: "I saw a blanket of thick black

smoke gushing through the windows. A couple of people were climbing out of ground-floor office windows."

Staff cleared the building within minutes of flames being seen. It took four hours to bring the blaze, attended by 60 firefighters with eight fire appliances and a turntable ladder, under control. The building was gutted.

Last night the fire's cause was still being investigated. The brigade confirmed that investigators were looking at the possibility that a flashover, or rolling wall of flame, caused by spirits from the drinks section, had exploded and brought the roof down.

The tragedy came three days after two part-time firefighters — Stephen Griffin, 42, and Kevin Lane, 32 — died in Blairstown, Gwent. They had gone back into a house to rescue a child already saved.

## Risk of 'IRA split over peace process'

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THERE IS a danger of an IRA split over the slow pace of the Northern Ireland peace process, George Mitchell, who chaired the advisory body on decommissioning terrorist arms, said yesterday.

Amid fears in the Province that IRA terrorists were responsible for a gun attack on the home of an RUC officer last week, Mr Mitchell said there was the potential for "direct and violent action" by the IRA. Speaking on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, the former US senator, who held lengthy discussions with the Sinn Féin leadership last month during the preparation of his report, said: "I think there is a danger of a fracture within that organisation. It seems clear that not all on the

republican side favour the ceasefire and the potential for some elements to take direct and violent action, I think, does remain."

Mr Mitchell said he hoped that the IRA would not split because it would be a "tragedy of huge proportions" if violence resumed. He added that the best way of underpinning the peace process would be to bring Sinn Féin and the loyalist parties further into the political process.

"I do believe that the political parties that are closely associated with the paramilitary organisations on both sides... are committed to the process. That's why I believe it's important to draw them further into the democratic

Continued on page 2, col 5

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## Burglars get by with help from a little friend

By PETER FOSTER

RUSSELL BROWN, 4, thought they were two unexpected friends to keep him company after he woke to go to the lavatory in the middle of the night.

He chatted politely to the burglars, helpfully pointing out his mum and dad's most valued possessions. He promised to be a good boy and make no noise while his parents slept upstairs.

He showed them the video recorder and the hi-fi. He told them where his mother kept her purse hidden in the kitchen, with more than £200 set aside for the week's groceries. He obliged with another £100 from the mortgage fund in a pot at the

back of a cupboard in the living room. He remembered that the garden shed at the bottom of the garden at his home in Alderman's Green, Coventry, was never locked. The burglars helped themselves to Russell's father's Christmas present, a power drill.

Russell held open the back door while his new friends loaded their haul into a car. He went back to bed, while his parents Russell and Wendy and his sister Reanne, 2, slept on. Mr Brown, 31, said: "Wendy was woken up at about 3am by the toilet light, but I told her to go back to sleep because I was sure it would just be Russell going to the loo."

At 9am Reanne woke them to say they

had better get up because Russell had made a mess in the living room. They took the children to Mrs Brown's sister, who telephoned later to say that Russell had confessed to his part in the burglary last week. "We thought he was dreaming it," Mr Brown said, "but the police said that he was telling the truth. His description of events was too detailed to be made up."

The Browns said they had not punished their son because he thought he had done the right thing. "At the end of the day you've just got to laugh about it. Anything could have happened to him, so we're glad he's OK."

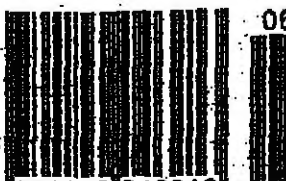
Three men have been arrested and charged in connection with the burglary.



Russell Brown, 4, chatted politely to night visitors

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TV & RADIO	38-39	LETTERS	17	ARTS	14-15	BUSINESS	34-38, 40
WEATHER	20	OBITUARIES	19	CHESS & BRIDGE	32	HEALTH	11
CROSSWORDS	28-40	PETER RIDDELL	16	COURT & SOCIAL	18	LAW REPORT	33



Attack on A violent Y...

Police keep a coe the fight again

Jersey sa honorary

...bringing record

# THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

**ALTERNATIVE HEALTH**  
Part two: shopping for therapies  
**PLUS:** Check your scores in our cash-prize interactive Team Football game

WEDNESDAY

**ESSENTIAL FASHION**  
Cool for kids  
**PLUS:** Interface, our weekly computer supplement

THURSDAY

**FILMS OF THE WEEK**  
Clockers, Spike Lee's best film yet?  
**PLUS:** Health, the Books pages, and John Bryant on sport

FRIDAY

**POP**  
The Bluetones' first album and other records of the week  
**PLUS:** The Valerie Grove interview, and the Education page

SATURDAY

**EASY MONEY**  
Free 20-page guide to Peps  
**PLUS:** The Magazine, Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: COLLECT A VOUCHER AND EAT OUT FOR £5

## Heseltine attacked for bill advice

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HESELTINE came under heavy criticism from his own party and from business last night for undermining government efforts to force companies to pay bills promptly.

Two days after the Government published legislation stopping companies and Whitehall departments from delaying payments, the Deputy Prime Minister advised businesses to delay paying bills if they were in financial difficulty.

Mr Heseltine yesterday repeated publicly the comments he had made in private last week, when he admitted that he had deliberately delayed paying bills when his company was in difficulty.

"Everyone who has started a small business knows the strains. Many people face moments when they find it difficult to pay their bills. I certainly went through that experience and certainly in those circumstances the creditors waited for their money."

His comments on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, were attacked as "absolutely appalling" by Sir Michael Latham, a former Tory MP who chaired a government-appointed commission into late payment.

The proposals of the Latham Commission, for an end to delaying tactics used in the construction industry, were included in a Bill published last Friday by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. Mr Gummer bowed to pressure from Tory MPs to ensure that government departments were forced to comply rather than be allowed immunity from prosecution.

Sir Michael said: "These comments set an absolutely appalling example, when the Government is trying to get payments speeded up. The result of businesses paying late is that someone else does not get the money and may go out of business."

"If a big company doesn't pay a smaller company, then the delayed payment is simply passed on, until the self-employed person at the end doesn't get paid at all. If companies or government can't afford to pay their bills, then they shouldn't order the work, and that's the message that should be put out."

Mr Heseltine amassed a fortune at the multinational Haymarket publishing empire.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, has demanded an apology from Mr Heseltine, and Robin Cook, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary, said yesterday: "I know Mr Heseltine has been telling private audiences for two years that late payments are a good idea. The fact is that late payment is the curse of the small business."

When publishing the construction Bill on Friday, Mr Gummer underlined his determination to outlaw "notorious" delaying tactics in the construction industry. Explaining his decision to extend the rules to Whitehall, Mr Gummer said: "Government has set itself the target of becoming a best-practice client. It is only right that we should take the lead in applying these reforms to the way we do business with the construction industry."

The Confederation of British Industry is surveying members to find out whether slow bill-payment is a particular problem and how long it takes for firms to be paid. It recently issued a code of conduct encouraging members to pay their bills promptly and has a list of members who have signed up to the code. "It is of concern when people do not pay on time. It is particularly difficult for small businesses. If they are not paid on time then they cannot pay their own bills," a CBI spokeswoman said. "Some people blame late payment for their firms going under but it can never be pinpointed as the only cause."

## Waldegrave under fire in Scott furore

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND NIGEL WILLIAMSON

JOHN MAJOR faced demands from Labour yesterday to dismiss William Waldegrave from the Government if the Scott report says that he signed untrue letters over the arms-to-Iraq affair.

Copies of the report will be delivered to Mr Major on Thursday. As ministers prepare to mount a damage-limitation exercise, Labour called for a commitment from the Prime Minister to sack any colleague criticised in the report.

Mr Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, are likely to be at the centre of criticism in the 2,000-page report.

Although no copies of the final report have been issued, friends of Mr Waldegrave, the former Foreign Office minister, said yesterday he did not expect it to be as critical of his actions as draft versions had been.

However, ministers recognise that there will be widespread criticisms of government conduct, in particular the use of Public Interest Immunity certificates which prevented witnesses from giving certain evidence in trials.

In the drafts, Lord Justice Scott criticised Mr Waldegrave and other former col-

leagues for giving misleading and inaccurate information to MPs. The final report will take into account written explanations sent by those involved, including Mr Waldegrave.

The report will be published on February 15 but copies will be delivered to the Prime Minister on Thursday via Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade. Robin Cook, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary, is to complain that ministers will receive copies seven days ahead of publication.

He said yesterday: "John Major should make it clear that there will be a mandatory sentence of dismissal for any minister found guilty of keeping Parliament or the courts in the dark. If the Scott report does indeed confirm that William Waldegrave repeatedly signed official letters that were untrue and which he knew to be untrue, he cannot remain in office."

Sir Richard Scott reacted angrily to reports yesterday that a late draft was similar to an earlier one leaked last year. He made clear that he had taken into account Mr Waldegrave's further submission. The judge said that it was "premature and mischievous" to base articles on anything other than the final report.



All change: carriages being repainted in the livery of the new South West service

## Shipbuilder aids peace process

The Irish Navy is hoping to contribute to the Northern Ireland peace process by having its latest vessel built at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Protestant East Belfast. Under a plan being drawn up by senior naval officers in the Republic, the £25 million vessel would be built in Belfast and then fitted out across the border in Cork.

The navy, which has seven ships, needs the new vessel to patrol the Republic's fishing waters in the Irish Box. Since the beginning of this year 40 Spanish fishing vessels have been allowed into the Box, which has increased the navy's work by more than 30 per cent. The European Union is expected to provide the bulk of funding for the new vessel.

## Millions 'wasted' on drugs bill

The Health Department is wasting hundreds of millions of pounds of taxpayers' money every year on prescription drugs, an investigation by *Health Watch* magazine has shown. Health officials refuse to admit how much is spent, but an Audit Commission report has suggested that total annual savings of up to £425 million could be brought about by better prescribing.

The Consumers' Association said that, without publication of the "D list", which details the annual drug bill, it was impossible to tell whether public money was being spent wisely. Officials say that disclosure of the list could jeopardise patient confidentiality and commercial interests.

Alternative medicine, page 11

## Human kindness killing hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are being endangered by milk, bread and dog food left for them in gardens by animal lovers, according to researchers who say the animals are losing their teeth. Hedgehogs are also picking up parasitic worms and wounds from contact with domestic animals. In a survey of 12 hedgehogs electronically tagged on release after a winter stay at an animal hospital in Somerset, only four were still alive after nine weeks back in the wild.

## Six share jackpot

Six tickets shared Saturday's lottery jackpot, each winning £1,625,476. The 38 tickets that matched five numbers plus the bonus won £78,970 each, and the 2,010 who matched five numbers got £933.

Winning numbers, page 20.

## Sorry, sir, but the future is running a little late

By JOE JOSEPH

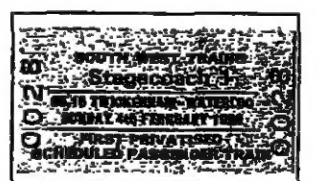
IT was to be an historic day: the first privately-run railway for nearly half a century.

"So, this must be a pretty exciting day for you," I whispered to a guard steering passengers towards the 10.32 to Exeter. He regarded me strangely. "Oh, yeah!" he hissed.

Maybe everyone at Waterloo looked so drawn because they are having as tough a time working out what is going on as the passengers. Inquiring on different occasions since Friday, I was told there was no 10.32 to Exeter, or that there was, but you had to go by bus from Basingstoke to Reading, or change trains at Woking, or change at Basingstoke and get a bus at Pinhoe. Even a double-check yesterday proved chaotic.

The area South West Trains serves - Surrey, Hampshire and Dorset - is known as the

"gin and Jag belt". Now we know why: decoding the timetable sends travellers rushing for a drink and their cars. At last we were off. Shortly after Basingstoke at 11.52am the train supervisor was on the tannoy: "Due to engineering



Souvenir ticket yesterday

works this train will terminate at Pinhoe, where a special bus service will take passengers to Exeter. There will be no buffet facilities. This is due to circumstances beyond my control."

The supervisor said: "The buffet staff aren't part of the

company. If they're short of staff, they just don't come, see?" And then, hungrily, to Pinhoe, where we boarded a coach like the ones in 1950s movies. At Exeter, Great Western, the second railway that reverted to private hands yesterday, beckoned. The new owners plan to pay homage to Brunel - who built the line in 1833 - by adopting the original livery. Passengers would settle for punctuality. The 15.10 to Manchester didn't leave till 15.28. Our 15.27 to Paddington was a modest 11 minutes late. A guard responded to a passenger's query by saying: "Perhaps the new management intends to run it the way it's always been run." And back to London by InterCity, stopping just twice before catching sight of Paddington, which helps restore faith in rail travel. Just remember to bring your own sandwiches.

## Fears of IRA split over peace process

Continued from page 1

process by getting these [all party] negotiations going as soon as possible."

Mr Mitchell praised John Major's commitment to the peace process, but his comments highlighted his irritation with Britain for rejecting his report's finding that all party talks should begin before terrorists have disarmed.

Mr Mitchell's fears about a split in the IRA were quickly rejected by Martin McGuinness, the leading Sinn Fein member. He said: "Since the beginning of the ceasefire, the IRA have proved themselves to be a very disciplined and cohesive organisation... I don't believe that there is any danger of a split."

Even so, one of Sinn Fein's most senior members recently described the ceasefire as a "tactic" which would be ended if real negotiations did not begin. There are four possible scenarios under which IRA violence could resume:

- Britain fails to broker the serious all party negotiations envisaged by the republican leadership.
- In the face of growing internal opposition to the ceasefire, violence is seen as the only way of maintaining IRA unity.
- The IRA and Sinn Fein engineer a managed split. Under this scenario the IRA would resume its violence, while Sinn Fein would try to maintain its role in the peace process by distancing itself from terrorism.
- A breakaway faction, possibly from hardline areas such as South Armagh or East Tyrone, could resume violence to challenge the leadership.

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, said he was not surprised by Mr Mitchell's comments. Speaking on the Frost programme, the MP for Upper Bann said: "Republican organisations... are quintessential fascist organisations."

## Blair backtracks on Labour's BT deal

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR has watered down plans to allow British Telecom to invest billions of pounds in the information superhighway within two years of a Labour government being formed.

The Labour leader has agreed that smaller cable companies should be protected from early competition from the telecommunications giant.

Mr Blair angered the cable industry when he announced at the Labour conference that the party had agreed a deal with BT giving the company access to the cable market in 1998 if Labour was in power. Some companies already installing cables said they could be put out of business.

Now Mr Blair has agreed that a Labour government would give companies seven years to establish themselves before BT could compete directly against them, meaning

that BT will be able to begin only a small number of cable networks in 1998. Labour leaders have also conceded that allowing BT into the market would require two complex and time-consuming pieces of legislation.

Last year's agreement meant that BT would connect schools and hospitals to a national computer network in return for access to the home cable market.

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## Attack on Ashdown exposes violent Yeovil street life

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE hate campaign against Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, which culminated in the petrol-bombing of his car last week, has drawn attention to the darker side of the apparently tranquil market town of Yeovil.

A small gang of petty criminals is blamed for the increasing violence in the town centre, with rising vandalism, arson and racist attacks. Anyone daring to stand up to them becomes a target.

The Somerset town is to install closed-circuit television cameras later this month, to try to tackle the problem. Many people say they are afraid to venture into the town centre after dark because it becomes the domain of drunk and yobs looking for trouble.

Tony Fife, a Liberal Democrat councillor and former mayor of Yeovil, said: "The trouble is orchestrated by a gang of petty criminals. Unfortunately, they are giving the town a bad name nationally."

Mr Fife is also a shopkeeper who has suffered at the hands of thugs. "While I was mayor, I had my shop windows put through 12 times, simply because I represented authority. At night, part of the town centre is intimidating — you sense an atmosphere of violence."

"But we have to get this into perspective. I am very proud of Yeovil, and its problems are no worse than any other town of a similar size."

Yeovil, with a population of 45,000, is surrounded by at-

tractive villages such as Norton-sub-Hamdon where Mr Ashdown has his home, but the town centre is an incongruous mix of old buildings and ugly modern precincts.

The trouble is focused on a street known as "Takeaway Alley", a pedestrianised route leading from Yeovil's three nightclubs to a cluster of kebab restaurants and take-aways at the bottom end of town. On the same street, a massage parlour, which was the front for a brothel, was closed by the Liberal Democrat council. The decision angered local criminals.

Mr Ashdown's stand

against racism — he founded the Partnership against Racial Harassment after attacks took place at several of the restaurants in Takeaway Alley — is also thought to have made him a target. A local newspaper which supported his campaign was firebombed.

Invariably, the violence is drink-related and the nightly problems involve the young. Martin Webb, manager of a hotel in the town centre, said he was now trying to encourage an older clientele. "Any-one under 22 or 23 we don't really want. I have put a couple of lads on the doors, to try to encourage older people

to come in, and changed the style of music. The clubs kick out between 2am and 4am, and all you hear is windows going. It is a hard job for the police and, without doubt, it is getting worse."

Yesterday morning, at 2.15, two youths stood urinating in a shop doorway, seemingly oblivious to passers-by. Two police officers stood watch at the other end of the precinct, where a drunken youth was goading them by pushing a beefburger towards their faces. Threatened with arrest, he walked off, then lashed out with his foot at a taxi. The driver did not want action taken but some of his colleagues now carry small coshes to protect themselves.

Earlier a group of skin-heads had jostled a homeless beggar who had the temerity to ask for a few pence. One youth, swigging from a bottle of strong cider, tore away the newspapers the man was using for warmth and shouted at him: "Why don't you get a job?"

Down the road, a girl screamed abuse at another young woman: "Tell your mate she's going to get her head ripped off."

The two officers were called to a fight outside a nightclub, but by the time they arrived it was over. They followed a gang of young men from the club through town. "I'll bet my pension that if we hadn't followed them, a window would have gone through," said one.



Paddy and his wife Jane yesterday



Elizabeth at 13: "a haunting loneliness, a reluctant but obsessive secrecy"

## Elizabeth I portrait 'reveals a childhood of abuse'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A PSYCHIATRIST who has studied the earliest known portrait of Elizabeth I believes it shows that she was abused as a child. Dr Elinor Kapp, a consultant in child and adolescent mental health with a special interest in the history of art, says the expression of "frozen watchfulness" is reminiscent of the victims of deprived or abused childhoods.

The portrait, which hangs in the present Queen's collection at Windsor Castle, shows Elizabeth at 13 in the last year of the reign of her father, Henry VIII. Dr Kapp writes in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*: "Her eyes are candid but the set of her head on the neck and the folded lips show a wariness that gradually, as one studies the picture, becomes the most striking thing about it. There is a haunting loneliness about its reluctant but obsessive secrecy... a frozen watchfulness that recalls to me countless victims of deprived or abused childhoods."

Dr Kapp points out that when Elizabeth was three her mother, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded; she was regarded as illegitimate, had three stepmothers and was the subject of constant scheming. If her childhood "were translated into modern terms, social workers would have been round at Henry's door constantly".

## Police keep a cooler head in the fight against crime

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE officers in Greater Manchester are to become the first in England and Wales to switch from the traditional helmet to a modern cap.

A national police committee is looking at the future of the traditional uniform. The decision by Greater Manchester, which is one of the largest forces in the country, is likely to influence other forces.

Police are divided over the value of the traditional helmet, but its disappearance would be mourned as the loss of another distinctly British symbol, following the demise of red telephone boxes.

Scottish forces abandoned the helmet in the 1950s. English and Welsh forces had fiercely debated its end and until now decided to keep it.

Next month the operational

officers in the 7,200-strong Manchester force will put aside their helmets and switch to a new-style of working uniform for the year 2,000. The traditional serge tunic will be swapped for a flame-proof continental blouson, and every officer will wear lightweight bullet-proof vests.

The helmet will be kept for ceremonial purposes which are likely to be rare. The helmet, taken originally from a design for the Prussian army, was first issued to London police in 1863. It is still made from dyed rabbits' fur, cork and cotton.

Some officers, including Sir Peter Imbert, the former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and Fred Broughton, the chairman of the Police Federation, have defended the

traditional helmet. They argue that the public links it to a British style of community policing.

Others officers argue the helmet is unwieldy to wear during a chase and impossible to keep on while getting in and out of a patrol car. It is hot in the summer and a target for people wanting to attack police. One Manchester officer said yesterday: "The officers welcome the change. They want a working uniform. The helmet is always being left in the back of cars and it is the first thing to fall off in a chase. It is no protection unless you put the chinstrap down and most officers never wear it with the strap down. Working police on the streets just want to something that is easy to wear."

## Day out in Inverness attracts the stars

THOUSANDS lined the streets of Inverness as celebrities gathered for the world premiere of the film *Loch Ness*. Its stars, Ted Danson, Joely Richardson and 11-year-old Kirsty Graham, were joined by Koo Stark, Bob Geldof and Annette Rice on a march through the town on Saturday, led by a pipe band. Two chartered jets carried more than 200 guests from London. Sniggers ran through the audience as the Provost, William Fraser, welcomed "Ted Dancing" to Inverness. Danson, who says he is descended from the MacMaster clan of Argyll, smiled as the Provost repeated his mistake later.

The 83-year-old La Scala cinema is one of the smallest to stage a world premiere. Executives from Polygram, which funded the film, are said to have been attracted by its elaborate decor.

## Jersey sacks three honorary officers

BY BILL FROST

THREE long-serving members of Jersey's honorary police force have been sacked for alleged racial discrimination against a Brazilian clergyman who ministers to the island's Portuguese community.

The sackings came after they jointly tendered their resignations when the Rev Vivaldo Filho was made a constable's officer. Stephanie Nicolle, Jersey's acting Attorney-General, said the attitude displayed by the three showed that they were "unfit to carry out their duties".

Miss Nicolle told Gerry Sutherland, Alan Allix and Lilian Minchinton that they would not be allowed to leave the honorary police of their own volition but were being forced out for discriminating against a fellow officer "on the grounds of national or racial origin". Mr Sutherland's wife Annette denied that her husband and his two colleagues were racist. "This was simply a clash of person-

alities. Gerry is not a racist, he has helped lots of black and coloured people in his 17 years with the police. We are terribly upset at what has happened."

Senhor Filho, who has lived in Jersey for ten years and is a British citizen, has questioned the claim that a "clash of personalities" was at the heart of an increasingly acrimonious affair. He said he had never worked with the three and met them only once, when he was elected last December.

Yesterday Senhor Filho refused to comment on the affair, but one of his supporters warmly welcomed the sackings. Leonard Springate said: "Thank God they have been given their marching orders. This has been a thoroughly disgusting business. The Rev Vivaldo is a wonderful man who gives his all to the community. He is a real Christian, which is more than can be said for some on this island who have now got their just deserts."

## Chill brings record payout

A FRESH blast of Arctic weather was heading for Britain yesterday, just as it was announced that cold weather payments by the Department of Social Security have already doubled the previous record.

So far this winter, £47 million has been paid to vulnerable groups. The previous highest pay-out was £23 million in the winter of 1991-92.

More than 5.6 million individual payments have been made, with people in some areas receiving the £8.50 weekly award more than once. Eligible households in the Aviemore and Braemar

areas of Scotland have received a total of £42.50 for five separate cold snaps. The payments are triggered when the average temperature is forecast or recorded at zero celsius or below for seven consecutive days, and is available from November 1 until March 31 to people on income support including pensioners, the disabled, and families with children under five.

Roger Evans, a junior Social Security Minister, said: "The payout shows the scheme is working well. The payments are reaching those people who need the help most. Payments are now

made automatically. There is no longer any requirement to put in a separate claim. Also, when payments are made as a result of a forecast and the weather is not as cold as the forecast predicts, we do not recoup the money."

Snow was forecast to move in from the west this morning, reaching a depth of several inches, and hitting London and the South East by this evening. The Meteorological Office said temperatures in the next couple of days would rarely rise above freezing.

America's freeze, page 10  
Forecast, page 20

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مكتبة النور



## Dismayed Tories to meet over MP's fate

By Alice Thomson

THE political fate of David Ashby, the Tory MP who lost a libel action in December over a report that branded him a homosexual, liar and hypocrite, will be decided at a special meeting of his local Tory party next month.

He held long discussions yesterday with senior local party members who did not hide their dismay at his behaviour. The constituency party of North-West Leicestershire, which Mr Ashby won with a majority of 979, is concerned about his £500,000 legal bill and by the sleaze allegations. They were embarrassed by members of the Ashby family giving vitriolic testimony against each other.

Mr Ashby, 55, met the chairman, vice-chairman and four members of the association at his home in Ravenstone for more than three hours. They made clear that they did not want a by-election which they would almost certainly lose but would like fresh blood to fight Labour at the next general election.

## Golfing tycoon stripped of title bans club

By Ian Murray

A GOLF club is being evicted from a course owned by a tycoon who was stripped of the world's leading pro-am golf title last week for alleged cheating.

Members of the Welcombe Golf Club have been told that they will not be able to renew their subscriptions, which expire at the end of this month. The course is in a 157-acre park around the Welcombe Hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon, bought for an estimated £17 million six years ago by Masashi Yamada, a Japanese property magnate.

Tom Wood, the club chairman, said: "We are being tipped out on to the street with nowhere to go and have been given no reason for it whatsoever. Our members are shattered and I have seen one senior member in tears."

"We have a great community spirit and want to stay together but the clubs round here are full with long waiting lists and none could take in all our 407 members." The club

has used the course since 1982, paying more than £250,000 a year for facilities including a clubhouse.

There was no written contract but Mr Wood, 70, said: "We had a gentleman's agreement to use the course and nobody ever complained about anything we did. It is a fine course and we are proud of it."

The course has been highly regarded since it was upgraded to 18 holes in 1978 and last year the club hosted the Midland PGA championship.

Last week Mr Wood was called in by John Moore, the hotel's general manager, and told that members would not be allowed to use the course after February 29. They pay annual fees of £505 of which £475 is passed on to the hotel.

A spokesman at the hotel said last night that the course was being closed for refurbishment. It was not known how long this would take or whether the club members would be allowed back after-



Tom Wood, right, on the course yesterday with the club secretary, Gary Cooper

wards, he said. Hotel guests would continue to be allowed to play the course.

Mr Yamada, 72, is a keen golfer who last year partnered Bruce Vaughan, a little known American professional, in the Pebble Beach Pro-Am championship, which was founded by Bing Crosby in 1964. The

pair won the title ahead of some of the best-known names in golf thanks largely to a succession of fine rounds by Mr Yamada, who was playing off a handicap of 15.

The organisers later discovered that Mr Yamada's true handicap was ten strokes better than the one he had used to

help him to the title. His incorrect handicap had been issued by a club he owns in Japan. The organising committee, chaired by Clint Eastwood, decided on the evidence to strip the title from Mr Yamada.

Woodsman wins, page 22

## MPs unite to back Bill outlawing ageism in job adverts

By Alice Thomson  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government will come under pressure this week to outlaw age discrimination in job advertisements after a study by Age Concern found that nearly 20 per cent bar people over 40.

More than 200 MPs of all parties are supporting a backbench Bill this Friday to help to fight ageism, which hinders millions of older people seeking work or a change of job. According to Age Concern, only 52 per cent of men aged 60 to 64 are economically active compared with nearly 90 per cent in 1951.

In one Sunday newspaper last week over 25 per cent of job adverts included phrases such as "You are probably under 40" or "Those over 50 need not apply". Most recruitment agencies are also backing the Bill. They conducted their own survey of 250 personnel directors, which showed 86 per cent regarded the under-35s as their ideal recruits for jobs ranging from cleaners to senior managers.

The Bill, introduced by David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall, would outlaw blatant age bars in job advertisements. Mr Winnick says that similar legislation has already successfully combated sexism, racism and discrimination against the disabled.

The Labour front bench has also pledged to introduce anti-age discrimination laws if it comes to power. Age discrimination is illegal in America, Australia and parts of Europe but the Government says it prefers a voluntary code of practice, claiming that legislation in America is unenforceable. The Confederation of British Industry says older workers cost more and are harder to retrain.

Phillip Walker, who runs the Campaign Against Age Discrimination in Employment, tried to commit suicide when he lost his directorship of an advertising company. He has compiled 5,000 case histories of age discrimination. "We have a range of people who have been discriminated against from security officers in supermarkets to chief executives," he said.

## Lords warn of fishing job losses

A House of Lords select committee has given a warning that overfishing could lead to huge job losses and the demise of fishing communities. The Earl of Selborne, chairman of the Lords Science and Technology Committee, said that the "stupid" quota system encouraged overfishing and that the Government had not given the problem serious attention until recently. "We are depleting our stocks, for a failure of political will," he said.

## Police raid club

Police raided a nightclub near Stockton-on-Tees, arresting 25 people for suspected drugs offences. More than 200 officers from the Cleveland and Northumbria forces were involved, searching the Coliseum club with dogs while a helicopter monitored the scene.

## Hi-tech purée

Purée from genetically modified tomatoes goes on sale at Sainsbury's and Sainsbury's today. Scientists have taken one of the "rotting" genes out of the tomato to allow longer-lasting, firmer-textured fruit to be produced. The modified tomato itself is not for sale.

## Ban on couples

The Royal Navy plans to enforce its ruling against married couples serving together by ordering them to speak up if they are posted to the same ship. Even if two ratings marry while serving together, one will normally be moved elsewhere.

## Train surfers

Two boys who were caught "train surfing" — riding on top of fast-moving rail carriages — may be prosecuted in what is thought to be the first case of its kind, police said yesterday. The boys, aged 12 and 14, were caught in Birkenhead, Merseyside.

## Street wise

Viewers of *Coronation Street* are using the Internet to alert each other to future twists in the plot. In the past four months, 28,000 people have logged on to the unofficial World Wide Web site devoted to news and gossip on the 35-year-old soap opera.

## New ballistic test 'will clear Clegg'

By Nicholas Watt  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SUPPORTERS of Lance Corporal Lee Clegg, the paratrooper who was jailed for the murder of a joyrider in West Belfast, said yesterday that they had new evidence which they hoped would quash his conviction.

Simon McKay, Clegg's legal adviser, said that ballistics tests carried out on fragments of bullets used in the shooting showed that the paratrooper did not fire an illegal shot.

Clegg, 27, was jailed for life in 1993 for the murder of Karen Reilly, who died when he and colleagues opened fire on a joyrider's car after it drove through a checkpoint in 1990. The paratrooper, who fired four shots at the car, was convicted of murder because Mr Justice Campbell ruled at Belfast Crown Court that he fired the fourth shot illegally.



Lee Clegg's supporters want conviction quashed

at the back of the car after the perceived threat had passed. Clegg was released on licence last July.

Mr McKay said the report would show that a bullet previously not linked to any soldier was Clegg's fourth shot, fired at the car's front wheel-arch.

## Rethink on RAF swaps after crash

THE Royal Air Force is reviewing its exchange posting scheme after a crash last month involving a Tornado flown by an Italian pilot.

An RAF Tornado GR1 from 14 Squadron at Bruggen in Germany crashed into a wood southwest of Munster. The pilot, an Italian Air Force officer, and the RAF navigator both ejected safely.

"The scheme is under scrutiny following this crash," a senior officer said. "There have been a number of incidents which confirm our view that Italian pilots can be too temperamental when cool heads are required."

The £20 million Tornado suffered a minor instrument failure, but not at a critical moment. Concern was expressed as to why the Italian ordered immediate ejection.

The scheme involves crew from the United States and other European air forces. "The Yanks are by far the nearest to our standards but the Italians leave much to be desired," the officer said.

## Gun police sue over ear damage

MORE than 100 police officers are preparing compensation claims totalling millions of pounds, alleging that they suffered hearing damage during firearms training.

Solicitors backed by the Police Federation are preparing files on the cases after a £150,000 settlement involving a former Leicestershire inspector last week.

Barry Poole, 55, was awarded the money in an out-of-court award on Wednesday. Mr Poole, of Ashby de la Zouch, was discharged from the force in 1989 because of his increasing deafness. He suffers tinnitus and cannot hear conversational speech.

The High Court was told that he was exposed to dangerous noise levels before ear protectors were introduced in 1972. The Chief Constable of Leicestershire and the county council denied liability.

Leicestershire could face further claims, as could the West Midlands, Northampton, Nottinghamshire, West Mercia and Staffordshire.

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## Former minister voices concerns

## Tory critics add to attack on Howard sentencing reform

By FRANCES GIBB AND RICHARD FORD

MICHAEL HOWARD'S plans for automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and violent offenders were attacked yesterday by one of his former prison ministers. Sir Peter Lloyd joined critics including Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, a former Lord Chancellor, and members of the judiciary.

The criticism came after the Home Secretary made a robust defence of his plans at what he described as a "very vigorous" private meeting with judges in Northampton on Saturday. Sir Peter, Conservative MP for Fareham, said Mr Howard's plan, to be unveiled in a White Paper in the late spring, was cumbersome and unconvincing.

"I don't think he has convinced the judiciary or myself yet that his approach with this very real point is the right one," he said. "I don't think we're talking about very large numbers and I don't think we need to go to something cumbersome like a life sentence for the second offence."

"I'm not convinced there is a need for a mandatory, automatic life sentence for the second offence."

Sir Peter, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World this Week*, said a judicial-medical mechanism was needed, by which prisoners who were still violent could remain in jail until they were no longer seen as a risk to society.

As officials continue to prepare for the White Paper, Lord Hailsham attacked the Home Office's tendency to impose sentencing policy on the judiciary.

He said on GMTV: "One shouldn't, if one is Home Secretary, seek to impose one's views either on colleagues or on the legislature. This business about mandatory sentences must be held in very grave suspicion."

Under the proposals, minimum sentences will be imposed on persistent burglars and drug dealers, and automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and other violent offenders. Mr Howard signalled a substantial reduction in the sentences imposed by courts when he met about 30 judges at the private meeting of the Criminal Justice Consultative Council on Saturday.

He said he would expect judges to take account of his plan for "honesty" in sentencing, in which the sentence imposed by the court would be served in full. "I want the offender standing in the dock to know the full weight of the sentence. I do not want him saying to himself, 'I know he said three years, but it only means 18 months'."

This would need guidance from the Lord Chief Justice pointing out that prisoners would now serve their full jail terms, he said. "My main concern is to say to the man in the dock: 'What you hear is what you serve'."

He rejected a warning from Lord Justice Rose, the Court of Appeal judge chairing the meeting, that rapists would commit murder if they knew they were going to be jailed for life anyway. "Taken to its logical conclusion, this line of argument suggests that there

should not even be a life sentence available, even on a discretionary basis, for murder," he said.

But Mr Howard made clear that automatic life sentences would, like discretionary life sentences, have the release date decided by the Parole Board and not the Home Secretary. The courts would fix the "tariff" to be served for retribution and deterrence. Once that had been served, the Parole Board would decide when a prisoner should be released.

The aim, he said, was to ensure that "in these particularly serious and unpredictable cases, we do not release prisoners who are a continuing threat to the public."

He added: "At present, double rapists or those who committed two violent offences have to be released without any assessment of risk, even if it is known that they continue to pose a risk."

His proposal for minimum sentences for drug dealers and persistent burglars provoked the most criticism at the meeting. Mr Howard did not spell out the number of previous convictions which would trigger a minimum sentence or the length of the jail term.

He attempted to calm anger by telling the meeting that he had always intended to provide for exceptions.

Paul Cavadin, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, an alliance of 30 groups in the penal system, doubted if judges would reduce sentence lengths and lay themselves open to claims of "going soft".

## Council tells staff to drop 14-week leave or be sacked

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

STAFF employed by a Labour council will receive redundancy notices today with a warning that they can have their jobs back only if they agree to new contracts, cutting their annual holidays by up to nine weeks.

Long-serving staff at Camden are entitled to up to 14 weeks' paid leave. Another London Labour council is in a no-redundancy policy.

Camden's action comes after two years of fruitless attempts to negotiate new contracts cutting leave, for 3,200 of its 6,000 town hall staff. They have been entitled to 50 days a year dependency leave to look after sick, close relatives. Given a five-day working week, this can amount to ten weeks a year in

addition to the four-week allowance for which every staff member qualifies.

Since 1993 the council has been prepared to offer a contract granting only five days leave a year on dependency grounds, but staff employed before then still benefit from the old terms.

The new contract also halves the amount of time off allowed to staff members working flexitime from two days to one day each four weeks. New recruits will qualify for the council's 40-week maternity leave only after they have been employed for a year.

Among those who will receive a redundancy notice are many of the 33 staff of the council's homeless unit, who

reported for work last week after sharing a £10 million win in the National Lottery.

Union, the staff union, is to call meetings this week to consider industrial action in protest at the new contracts. About 2,400 staff members have signed them but the remaining 3,200 have so far refused. Hackney councillors have voted to end a no-redundancy policy which has cost £2 million a year.

From April, staff who are no longer wanted by their department will have six months to find a permanent post elsewhere on the council or face redundancy. The council plans savings of another £13 million which will mean compulsory redundancies for up to 100 people.



Yesterday's villains: from left, the gang bosses Charles Richardson, Jack 'Spot' Comer and his rival Billy Hill

## Crime families are pushed out by new breed of drug gangster

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A NEW type of sophisticated young gangster is taking over Britain's underworld and ousting the traditional criminal families.

Research compiled for chief constables identified 300 leading criminals who stay in the background as "fixers" and organisers, hiding behind legitimate businesses and arranging the links for big drug consignments or distributing expensive stolen cars.

Traditional family gangs still exist in cities such as London, Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne, but their influence is diminishing. Police found there were no modern versions of the Krays or the Richardsons who carved up much of London in the 1960s, and hierarchical gangs such as the Thompsons, who ran crime in Glasgow over several generations, were declining.

Colin Phillips, the Assistant Chief Constable heading CID in Greater Manchester and the leader of the research team, said: "The criminals network as a businessmen. We are not saying people don't follow their fathers into crime, but now they are not family hierarchies. Drugs are the currency of the criminals."

"In the 1950s and 60s it was vice, prostitution and pornography. In the 1980s it was car crime, then fraud. Now it is drugs."

Drug investigations take up 40 per cent of detective work in some forces. According to detectives, the typical gang leader is in his late 20s or 30s. "They are leaders because, when push comes to shove, they will walk into a pub and shoot someone," a London officer said. "If someone has them over, they take revenge. If you have money off them, there will be retribution."

The gang leaders have always left school early and have convictions that give them status with other criminals, who turn to them for help. Sometimes they are the sons of minor criminals.

The gangs usually number 15 or 20 core members who have grown up together. Violence

between the gangs is far less than expected. It will be used to defend territory in "hot wars", but there is so much criminal business available that the gangs do not need to compete.

Times have changed since the early part of this century when gangs grew among the new immigrant communities in London, Liverpool and Glasgow. Razor gangs ran bookmaking on racetracks across the country, leading to fearsome battles between rivals.

In 1921 the Birmingham and Leeds mobs turned on the "Italians", a gang led by the Sabini family, on the last day of the Derby meeting. There was a brief battle after which 23 people were convicted.

In the postwar era, gangs turned to vice, clubs and gambling, with the likes of Billy Hill and Jack "Spot" Comer fighting for control of underworld business. The Krays and Charles Richardson also based their empires on clubs, fraud and intimidation.

The Krays adopted a high

profile, cultivating society contacts and trying without a great deal of success to move into the West End of London. After police broke the gangs of the 1960s, their successors shunned publicity.

As a more liberal atmosphere allowed legal competitors into the vice industry, organised criminals turned first to armed robbery and then to drugs, building contacts in Spain, South America and North Africa.

They move quickly with drug trends. In the 1990s they have invested in raves and the supply of synthetic drugs from the Continent. Like the razor gangs of the 1920s they still protect their territory, but now they use sawn-off shotguns and hired hitmen.

Networking between gangs and operations across police boundaries present the greatest problems for a law-enforcement system based on regional forces, the report compiled for the chief constables says. Only 21 of the 55 forces have computer systems which allow them to carry out

simple analysis to uncover the size of cross-border crime.

Chief constables are already in debate with the Home Office about the creation of a national CID unit. The National Criminal Intelligence Service is also expected to widen its work at the top end of the criminal scale.

Police are also being urged to build detailed and constantly updated assessments on organised crime, modelled on those used against the IRA. The assessments would be part of an intelligence package that would include long-term forecasts of how social and economic trends might influence crime.

Police are already talking about creating "intelligence cells" similar to those used in the armed services, to update senior officers and detectives.

The research ordered by the chief constables shows that forces could work together more to combat gangs and criminals who travel widely to commit crime. In one force 30 per cent of burglaries were committed by criminals from other areas.

## Labour may 'claw back' child benefit from rich

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR is considering taxing child benefits for the richest families in an attempt to curb rising welfare costs.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, said yesterday: "I want to look at the 'Duchess of Westminster' problem, where people who are right up at the top end of the income scale can still walk down the road and into a post office and draw child benefit."

He added: "We are looking at options to see if right up at the top end of the scale there might be some way to claw back some of the money that goes to people who actually don't need it."

Mr Smith, who recently visited Singapore to study its system of social security, is determined that Labour would tackle the problem of the £90 billion-a-year benefits bill. He emphasised that "the broad mass of people" did rely on child benefit. "I'm absolutely committed to the universal



Smith: child benefit to remain universal

payment of child benefit," he said. "It's an essential part of child support in this country and I want to see it continue as universal payment."

In an interview on GMTV's Sunday programme, Mr Smith said that Labour was examining a "benefit-to-work" strategy which would give people "a hand up" rather than just a hand-out. "If we can get people off unemployment, out of dependency, back into work, with opportunities, instead of having obstacles put in their way, then I think we can begin to see some really radical changes in the nature of the system."

But he cast doubt on Labour adopting a Singaporean-style pension scheme, where people have to put 20 per cent of their income into compulsory savings schemes. Mr Smith said that instead of such a scheme, "which no one in Britain could afford", he wanted to create a new, funded, secure pension scheme for people who did not have decent occupational or personal pensions.

## HOW POLICE SEE BRITAIN'S GANG THREAT

**RUSSIAN MAFIA** Apart from one case there is no evidence in the United Kingdom. There is some evidence of organised crime by Russian nationals of the London financial markets and there is suspicion that they are using it to launder money.

**MAFIA** Believed to be present within the resident Italian population and evidence was found of some contact with organised crime groups. They are involved in extortion, mostly of Italian companies, and fraud, particularly the falsification of bank cheques. There is a little evidence of some trafficking using British arms dealers to import arms. Also involved in money laundering.

**NIGERIAN** West African criminal groups, mainly Nigerian, are involved mainly in drug trafficking and loan, generally benefit from using false and repeated claims.

**YARDES** Seen generally as a London problem with a main interest in drugs and not seen as a great threat outside their communities.

**THRADES** Four main Thai societies within the Chinese population. They engage in a wide range of criminal activity, mostly against their own community, mostly extortion.

**BRITISH GANGS** Mainly local criminal networks exploiting local opportunities based in geographical boundaries and generally exploiting local money-lending opportunities. Drugs have a dominant role. Generally white males and generally home-grown.



**NatWest Interest Rates**

National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 5th February 1996:

Savings	Gross Interest per annum	Gross CAR	Net Interest per annum
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1 Month Notice - interest paid monthly			
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£50,000 - £99,999	4.750%	4.85%	3.56%
£25,000 - £49,999	4.375%	4.46%	3.28%
£10,000 - £24,999	4.000%	4.07%	3.00%
£2,000 - £9,999	3.125%	3.17%	2.34%
Premium Reserve			
Instant Access			
£50,000 +	4.000%	4.06%	3.00%
£25,000 - £49,999	3.625%	3.67%	2.72%
£10,000 - £24,999	3.250%	3.29%	2.44%
£2,000 - £9,999	3.000%	3.03%	2.25%
First Reserve			
Instant Access			
£1,000 +	2.875%	2.91%	2.16%
£500 - £999	2.625%	2.65%	1.97%
£250 - £499	1.900%	1.51%	1.13%
£100 - £249	1.375%	1.38%	1.03%
£0 - £99	1.250%	1.26%	0.94%

The rates for all other personal savings accounts remain unchanged.

Where appropriate, Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reduced by resident non-taxpayers). Otherwise (for example, subject to the required registration form), interest will be paid gross.

The Gross Rate is the rate paid before deducting income tax.

The Gross Compounded Annual Rate (CAR) is the rate where gross interest payments are reinvested in the account during the year.

The Net Rate is the rate paid after deducting income tax at the Basic Rate, currently 23%.

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## Primitives who failed to have last word

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

NEANDERTHAL man was an evolutionary dead-end, lacking abstract thought or the ability to categorise, a British expert believes.

The rise and fall of Neanderthal man has long been a puzzle because fossils show that his brain was at least as large as those of modern humans. He was the product of two million years of evolution but disappeared, leaving hardly a trace. He produced no ornaments, no cave paintings and had no network of kinship or religion.

Dr Paul Mellars, Reader in Archaeology at Cambridge University, says in a new book that the reason lies in language. The ability to describe things accurately enables categories to be created: "a name goes with a mental image". The forms of Neanderthal tools vary continuously, while the tools of *Homo sapiens* are much more clearly divided into categories.

"One fascinating possibility is that modern humans had fully complex language, and Neanderthals had only a proto-language. Modern humans were much better at planning, which requires storing and passing on information. You can't do that without language."

Reith lecturer, page 13

## Protesters dig deep to thwart bypass

By ADRIAN LEE

THE battle lines were drawn this weekend for the final assault on tree dwellers whose illegal homes block the route of the Newbury bypass.

As protesters replenished food and water in 60 tree houses, the Under Sheriff of Berkshire, Nick Blandy, whose ancestors were responsible for hanging criminals in the county, was drawing up his siege plans for four camps.

Legal action last week cleared the way for Mr Blandy and his bailiffs, some skilled mountaineers, to move the battle from the ground to the trees. Hydraulic cherry pickers will be used to pull activists from the elaborate rope walkways which link the tree houses in an operation that Mr Blandy, a veteran of protests at the Greenham Common air base, predicted could last several weeks.

There are now thought to be 20 tree camps in addition to the 1500 tunnel in which the campaigners have said they will seek refuge when the evictions start. After four weeks of protest there have been 300 arrests and Mr Blandy, 47, whose relatives have held the post of Under Sheriff since it was created in 1887, said: "I hope none of the protesters falls out of a tree but if they do it will be because they have placed themselves in danger."

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# State school agrees separate RE for Muslim children

**By PETER FOSTER**

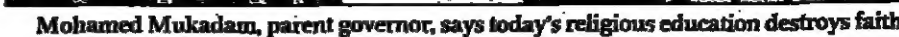
If the diocesan chancellor ratifies the approval, opponents still plan an appeal to a church court. The rector has been supported by his church council, but opposed by the parish council. Richard Leighton, its chairman, said: "I would be horrified if the pews were sold. I hope they will be put in storage. These charismatic worshippers may be gone in five years."

## Convent

The classified section of the *Catholic Herald* is full of small ads from orders exhorting volunteers to devote themselves to a spiritual way of life. A spokesman for the newspaper said: "Convents and monasteries have for a long time used the classified section to attract new recruits, but there have been more and more of late, often emphasising a New Age rejection of

## ts resort

# to classify



on parental rights, and that's why I am so sympathetic to the Muslims for defying this, giving a lead, which I hope Christians will take".

But the Professional Council for Religious Education said that parents were misunderstanding the purpose of RE lessons. Lar Blaylock, the council's executive officer,

said: "School RE is educational. It's not about indoctrination or conversion — it doesn't have that as an aim and it doesn't happen as a result of school RE.

I don't think this kind of separate development is really in the interests of the children. In the primary age group the learning is from one or two

different religions, a reasonable way forward."

Yesterday Mr Mukadam met the Muslim parents who withdrew their children from schools in West Yorkshire last month. He argued against withdrawing children in favour of the system adopted in Birmingham of actively teaching Islam to Muslim children.

## Roddick puts ethics first at green college

**BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT**

mainstream society. Most are desperate to attract younger women before their order dies out altogether. They must get some response because they keep advertising and the ads are costly.

Since 1985, more than 2,500 sisters have been lost from Britain's 200 orders and, of the 8,000 remaining, almost half are more than 70 years old. Nuns between 30 and 50 years old account for only 10 per cent of the total, according to figures from the Catholic Media Office. Kieran Conry, of the Media Office, said:

"Some orders are doing better than others, but the ones that are doing worst are the enclosed orders and those founded for specific jobs like teaching and nursing.

"When they were founded centuries ago, there was no welfare state and they provided a service—they helped the poorest members of the community. There is little schooling for all and the National Health Service. Nuns have been supplanted by the State."

One of the most popular Catholic girls' schools in the country, St. Mary's, Ascot, was handed over to local authority control last year when the nuns' numbers began to fall to an unsustainable level. With nuns adorning mass

**ANITA RODDICK**, the founder of The Body Shop, is to launch a "green college" in a crusade to ensure that tomorrow's business leaders are more ethically aware.

Mrs Roddick, a former teacher, wants her courses to be as environmentally friendly as the mango body butter and raspberry ripple bath bubbles on sale in her high-street stores. Lectures at her New Academy of Business will build on the lessons learnt in turning The Body Shop from a small boutique in Brighton into a global empire with 1,200 outlets.

secondary school teacher in Bath and spent several years in the classroom before embarking on her business career. She now earns \$122,000 as chief executive of Body Shop International.

Courses will teach regard for human rights, spirituality in business life and "socially responsible investment and finance". Ms Roddick said: "Business education must contain the language and notion of social justice, human rights, community economics and the development of the human spirit."

Dr David Wheeler, head of

**Mrs Riddick** has spent £50,000 preparing a series of short courses at three already working in industry. The next stage is to develop a masters degree awarded by an existing university and the long-term plan is for full undergraduate courses.

**Mrs Riddick** trained as a

**Dr David Wessell**, nelson  
ethical audit at The Body  
Shop and an authority on  
the subject of the ethical  
of materials, is helping to set  
up courses. **Gill Coleman**,  
who has spent four years as  
director of studies for the  
MBA in international busi-  
ness at Bristol University, is  
the academy's course director.

He also confirmed that the movement would be announcing this week that it had been given permission to hold a service to celebrate its 25 years, at Southwark Cathedral later this year.

Mr Kirker said thousands of gay and lesbian members of the clergy were not celibate because they were in a stable relationship or wanted to be in such a relationship. "Homosexual sexual clergy are victimised by being made to pretend they are not in a relationship. That's the price they have to pay if they wish to receive support from their employers."

Mr Sheehan said the House

Mr. Shegog said the House of Bishops had called for a debate on the issue in 1991 while making clear that active homosexual practice among the clergy was unacceptable. "That debate has been going on since then, so all these powers and the clergy who have signed are saying is that they want to encourage debate."

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## Official history lifts lid on undercover missions that prepared the ground for D-Day

## How secret fishing fleet carried spies to occupied France

BY MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE full story of how clandestine flotillas were used to ferry secret agents in and out of France and North Africa during the early years of the Second World War has been disclosed after an unprecedented decision to open the archives of the Secret Intelligence Service and the Special Operations Executive.

Sir Brooks Richards, an official historian who served with the SOE in the war and was security co-ordinator in Northern Ireland in the early 1980s, was allowed to see the files of "O" section of the SIS, which was involved in the covert operations that helped to provide intelligence during the years leading up to the D-Day landings.

The fall of France in June 1940 had left the coastline of Western Europe in hostile hands. It was as great a strategic threat to Britain as any since the Spanish Armada. The secret services were



Richards: given unique access to secret files

under enormous pressure to gather intelligence, particularly on any attempt by the Germans to mount an invasion. The SIS man charged with establishing links with agents in occupied France was Commander Frank Slocum, known as "O".

Much has been written about the covert air opera-

tions, but Sir Brooks says that his book, *Secret Flotillas*, is the first to tell of the naval crews who carried agents to France. He had unique access to closed official intelligence files for the book, which is published by HMSO in association with the Cabinet Office.

In 1940, the SIS had no available assets in France because of a gentleman's agreement with the French *Service de Renseignements* not to conduct espionage. Slocum had to start from scratch, recruiting, training and briefing agents. The SIS sought help from intelligence officers working with the Vichy Government and also from the intelligence service of the exiled Polish Government, whose officers ran daring operations for SIS from Gibraltar to Morocco.

Slocum set up two sections to obtain intelligence in France, one under Commander Wilfred Dunderdale, who had been head of the SIS's Paris station until the fall of France, and Commander Kenneth Cohen. Between June and October 1940 agents were landed in The Netherlands, Belgium and the north coast of France from whatever surface craft were available. The first French operation recorded by Slocum, successfully landed an agent near Brest on the night of June 20, 1940.

Dunderdale's section ran operations in Brittany using Breton fishing vessels. His operational base was in Mylor Creek, near Falmouth, Cornwall. The crews were Free French naval volunteers on secondment to the SIS.

Sir Brooks, who at one point ran guns to Corsica by submarine, said that one remarkable agent was a Frenchman called Daniel Lomench, who was only 19 when first recruited. He had escaped from France and volunteered to go back as an SIS agent.

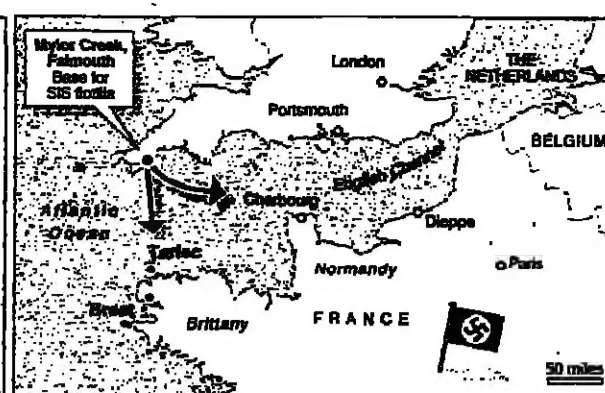
Early in November 1940 he landed on a beach in Brittany with another agent from a trawler. It returned a month later but developed engine trouble and, while it was being repaired at a French port, the four crew went off drinking. When they returned, the boat had blown away.

Sir Brooks said: "It was an awkward situation, four sailors without a boat... and two spies stranded with their intelligence becoming stale." Lomench eventually returned in another boat.

The missing boat was reported to the French authori-



The Ar-Morscou, left, and L'Angèle-Rouge ran missions to Brittany from their base near Falmouth. The flotillas were set up by Commander Frank Slocum, centre left, and crewed largely by Free French volunteers such as Daniel Lomench, who was recruited at the age of 19



ties and was recovered, but German military customs learnt of it and found British provisions on board. Berlin was informed that this was the first known case of a fishing boat being used to convey people from England.

In 1942 Slocum got permission for a new 55ft boat to be built with 500-horsepower engines, giving a speed of up to 20 knots. It was named L'Angèle-Rouge, after Slocum's auburn-haired secretary, Miss Sykes-Wright. Another was the salvaged Ar-Morscou, which Lomench had found half-submerged in Newlyn harbour.

The "strikingly handsome" Lomench commanded the L'Angèle-Rouge on its first three operations, before transferring to submarines. He was awarded the DSO in October 1942.

Later, when L'Angèle-Rouge was commanded by Lomench's successor, Lieutenant J.J. Allen, it ran into the middle of a German convoy while returning to England with two agents and secret mail. As the German warships steamed by, the SIS men could hear the sound of a gramophone playing and saw German officers peering at them through binoculars. But the convoy passed on.

Another legendary wartime SIS figure was David Birkin,

father of the actress Jane Birkin. He joined Slocum's section after Naval Signal School and took part in numerous clandestine trips to France.

Sir Brooks said Birkin found "the Scarlet Pimpernel" character of the work fascinating, although he was not a natural sailor. Like Nelson, he never overcame seasickness and always had to work with a bucket and towel at hand. As navigator on 33 missions, he carried in his jacket pockets his pipe, enough tobacco for two days, his box of survival

rations, a bottle of morphine tablets and a Luger.

Until silence became a necessity as they approached their rendezvous point, their progress across the Channel would normally be accompanied by the strains of the ship's radio, usually playing Vera Lynn. In one mission, Birkin was sent to pick up seven airmen from the island of Tarte, near Brest. They had made their way past German patrols by disguising themselves as seaweed gatherers and shell collectors.

Slocum's counterpart at the

SOE was Leslie Humphreys,

who was also told to organise a section to run agents in France. In one rendezvous to pick up intelligence material, an agent called Gerry Holdsworth took a boat to the French coast and met a sailing vessel whose two-man crew handed him a package of clandestine mail. On their return to England, they were spotted by a customs officer who demanded to see the contents of the bag. Holdsworth refused but later had to get a licence from the customs service, granting him

immunity from inspection for the rest of the war.

In the case of another SOE mission, which took place on the night of February 25, 1944, no detailed report has been preserved, except the name of one of two passengers being dropped off at a headland, called Beg-an-Fry. It was a young François Mitterrand, future President of France. The SOE had offered to return him to France after De Gaulle refused to do so, possibly because of Mitterrand's known connections with the Vichy Government.



SIS man David Birkin, with his daughter Jane

## THE TIMES DILLONS LECTURE

## Richard Leakey and the Sixth Extinction

THE FIVE mass extinctions of species on the planet were all natural disasters. Speaking at a Times/Dillons lecture on Monday, February 12, chaired by Richard Dawkins, Richard Leakey, the Kenyan politician and renowned palaeoanthropologist and conservationist, will warn us that we are heading for a sixth.

Our capacity to exploit the world's resources beyond the point of natural renewal is leading us to the verge of a man-made catastrophe, he says. *Homo sapiens* could destroy entire species and trigger the sixth extinction.

The lecture marks the publication of Dr Leakey's new book (with Roger Lewin), *The Sixth Extinction: Biodiversity and Its Survival* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99), and will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1E, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (£7.50 concessions), which includes £3 off the price of Dr Leakey's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-580 7680, or by sending the coupon with your remittance to: Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

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## Balkan havoc lets slip the mice of war



WARS have been endemic in the Balkans for centuries. Where there is war there is squalor, and where there is squalor there are rats and mice. It is therefore not surprising that the Balkans also have an endemic kidney disease that is spread by rodents. From time to time this causes epidemics and whenever an army fights over countryside there is an outbreak.

In Bosnia, the first British soldier has fallen victim to Balkan nephropathy, one of the group of diseases, the Hanta virus, spread by eating mouse or rat droppings, or food contaminated by rodents' urine. The soldier has made a good recovery.

The virus is named after a Korean river, and was described as the cause of the local variety of the disease - Korean Haemorrhagic Fever - long after that war ended and the armies returned to their home bases.

In Korea the disease, which causes pain and tenderness over the renal angle and poor kidney function, sometimes resulting in complete renal failure, is particularly lethal, with a 20 per cent mortality rate. The Hanta viruses also cause spontaneous bleeding in organs other than the kidney, the skin and sometimes the brain and spinal cord, so that patients develop stroke-type symptoms. In wars, or in

large-scale army manoeuvres, the rats and mice are as much on the move as the armies. They are disturbed from their normal habitats and, by taking advantage of a sudden increase in food available, breed rapidly.

The risk to soldiers depends on the war zone. If they were not careful to keep the mouse droppings out of the soup in Korea, the death rate was as high as 20 per cent, whereas the variety of the virus which would be found by any of our special forces exercising in northern Europe causes a comparatively benign strain which has a death rate of only 1 per cent.

In terms of its lethal effect, the Balkans species is probably midway between the Far East version and the Scandinavian.

As there has been no war on American soil since the Civil War, the virulence of the local virus has not been thoroughly tested, but it is interesting that, although the Americans are great at living an out-of-doors life, the type of Hanta virus found in American rats and mice has never been known to affect people. The American army in Germany, however, suffered a serious outbreak after exercises in 1990.

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# Families reunited as no-go controls vanish in Sarajevo

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE Bosnian Government yesterday reasserted its authority over all of Sarajevo after more than three years of war had divided the city into separate camps.

Hundreds of Sarajevans from both sides trickled across the former front line into neighbourhoods they had not been permitted to see since April 1992 when the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina began. As they embraced family members and friends who had been on the other side of the line, they were also making a statement. Sarajevo, once divided by checkpoints, sniping and shelling, was again united under the authority of the central Government.

According to the terms of the Dayton peace agreement, the Bosnian Serb militia which controlled five suburbs around the capital had to vacate the areas by midnight on Saturday. Nato said the deadline was met without incident. Although the Serb

militia has moved out of the suburbs, Bosnian Serb police and other civil authorities will remain in the areas for another 45 days.

The decision to permit Serb authorities to stay was brokered at the 11th hour by Carl Bildt, the former Swedish Prime Minister in charge of implementing the civilian aspects of the Dayton plan. Mr Bildt was hoping to prevent panic among Serbs in those areas who fear for their safety when government authorities take over. About 20 per cent of the Serb population has left the areas that are due to be handed back to the Bosnian Government.

The Bosnian army, police and civilian authorities are to take full control of the areas on March 19, although for the Nato peace implementation force, will remain in the areas until December.

"This is the best day I have had in four years," said Danko, a middle-aged woman

who was reunited with her husband yesterday. Danko, a Serb from Sarajevo, had been staying at the family's country house in Ilidza when Serb forces took the suburb. Her husband, a doctor, remained in the capital.

Although they were only a few miles away from each other, the couple were unable to see each other for nearly four years. Three times they were able to speak through ham radios and once on the telephone. Danko said that yesterday she took sedatives and walked to Sarajevo across the former front line to find her husband. "We have both been crying all day," she said with a big grin.

Alternating between laughter and tears, Danko said it was terrible to see the destruction of Sarajevo. "Our apartment was just strewn with bullet holes and a lot of our paintings were destroyed," she said. Still, Danko said that she would be moving back to the capital permanently in the next few days.

Civilians have been permitted to cross front lines since the Dayton agreement took effect in December, but residents on both sides were wary of moving into areas still under the control of their enemies. Sarajevans rarely ventured into Serb-held suburbs, but now they are doing so with increasing regularity.

"I feel like I was born again," said Slavo, a 71-year-old Serb residing in Sarajevo who visited his grandson in Serb-held Ilidza yesterday for the first time since 1992. "It is great. I just got on the tram and went to Ilidza. Nobody stopped me. Only two soldiers stepped in to say good day. Yesterday they were checking ID cards, today they were not. It is all one city now."

## Fears for economy as Yeltsin caves in

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

HUNDREDS of thousands of striking Russian miners returned to work at the weekend after Kremlin assurances that back wages would be paid and new subsidies spent on the coal industry.

After a well-organised walkout brought about 75 per cent of Russian coal production to a halt, most of the more than half a million striking miners returned to their pits on Saturday.

"Everything that I promised at the meeting with the leadership of the trade union of coal industry workers is being carried out," said Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, at the weekend after details of the huge cash handout were disclosed.

The union said the Government has agreed to make good £85 million in back pay, and provide £15 billion in industry funding this year. Vitali Budko, the union's leader, said the Kremlin had until March 1 to start meeting its commitment — or the miners would strike again.

A simultaneous strike by Ukraine's miners over unpaid wages goes on with stoppages and disruptions reported yesterday at about 40 per cent of its mines.

Although the Russian deal has bought the Kremlin a breathing space, the agreement may have set a dangerous precedent politically and economically. The Government's surrender after only 48 hours provided further evidence that, as part of his re-election campaign before the June polls, President Yeltsin plans to lavish subsidies and pay rises on industries under the miners, whose strike five years ago against the

В КАССЕ  
ДЕНЕГ  
НЕТ!



An unpaid miner turns away from the closed pay office at Prokopyevsk pit. Cash has been promised, but the union says it will strike again if the deal collapses

Soviet authorities helped to bring the President to power, have set a precedent other disgruntled workers may copy.

The spring spending spree may help to shore up the Russian leader's sagging popularity, but also risks destabilising the economy by pushing up inflation, undermining the rouble and threatening a key £6 billion

International Monetary Fund loan. IMF and Russian negotiators failed to agree the loan last week and Yevgeni Yasin, the Economy Minister, said yesterday that he was concerned about conditions the IMF might set.

Despite the blith, the deal is expected to be sealed later this month during the planned Moscow visit by Michel Cam-

dessus, the IMF managing director, who helped to clinch last year's generous loan.

Whatever doubts may be growing about Mr Yeltsin's commitment to reforming Russia's economy, nobody in the West wants to cut him off from financial help as he prepares his election campaign against a strong Communist challenge.

## 'Dynasty' star in war over her words

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

JOAN COLLINS, the actress, will appear in a stormy real-life drama due to start unfolding today before a New York jury.

The star of the hit television series *Dynasty* is locked in a legal battle with Random House, the publisher, in a failed \$4 million (£2.6 million) book deal. Random House claims Miss Collins broke her contract with its British and American publishers by turning in unusable manuscripts for two novels for which she had been paid an advance of \$1.3 million. Miss Collins, 62, responds that she put her acting career on hold to write *A Ruling Passion* and *Hell Hath No Fury* and insists the books are of publishable quality.

Random House is seeking the return of its advance, while the star is suing the publisher for the rest of her \$4 million. Miss Collins's two-book deal was negotiated by the late Hollywood super-agent, Irving "Swifty" Lazar, with Joni Evans, when she was an editor at Random House, which is now headed by Harold Evans, no relation to the former editor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

The British actress, who played Alexis Carrington in *Dynasty*, already has three bestsellers to her name — *Prime Time*, *Past Imperfect*, *An Autobiography* and *Too Damn Famous*. Her sister Jackie is the queen of potboiler romances, such as *Hollywood Wives*.

Miss Collins believes she fell victim to in-house politics at Random House, as it tried to shut down the unprofitable *Turtle Bay* imprint created for books edited by Ms Evans. Ironically, Miss Collins's latest screen role is as an actor's agent in Kenneth Branagh's new film, *In the Bleak Midwinter*.

## Serb police can stay

Sarajevo: Bosnian Serb police will be allowed to stay in former Serb-held suburbs of Sarajevo for 45 days, although those areas were transferred to Bosnian government control yesterday, international mediators said (Stacy Sullivan writes).

Under the terms of the Dayton peace agreement, the separatist Bosnian Serbs had to withdraw all military forces from five suburbs around the Bosnian capital by midnight on Saturday. However, Carl Bildt, the international mediator, who is aiming to prevent a mass exodus of Serbs, negotiated an agreement to allow the Serb police to stay. Serbs in those areas say

they fear retributions by the Bosnian Government. Residents have been fleeing Serb suburbs with their belongings for weeks.

Mr Bildt's decision angered the Bosnian Government. President Izetbegovic protested about the decision to Warren Christopher, the visiting US Secretary of State, accusing Mr Bildt of misinterpreting the Dayton agreement. Hasan Muratovic, Bosnia's new Prime Minister, demanded that the decision be revoked within seven days.

However, international mediators said the Bosnians reluctantly agreed to the plan after an emergency meeting with Nato officers.

## Portillo attacks 'slow boat' taunt

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN came under fresh criticism yesterday for slowing down the drive towards a single currency and for trying to deter European partners from monetary union.

British ministers reacted strongly to demands from Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, that "the slowest boat must not determine the speed of the fleet", and disagreements intensified over the likely starting date of the single currency as Britain warned Germany that Euro-scepticism had to be acknowledged in the campaign for monetary union.

Michael Portillo, Defence Secretary, fought back against greater European integration by defending the importance of the "nation state" and dismissing claims that Britain was the "slowest boat" referred to by Herr Kohl.

However, pressure increased on Britain to stop its high-profile campaign to win the support of fellow European partners in opposing monetary union. Hans van den Broek, a European Commissioner for External Affairs, criticised the tactics used by British ministers since John Major secured an opt-out dur-

ing the Maastricht treaty negotiations. "It is your free choice, but do not use that margin of manoeuvre, which you have, to sink the whole project or wish the whole project to sink."

Senior European politicians have voiced concern at the increasingly forceful campaign waged by British ministers to delay a single currency. Karl Lamers, Herr Kohl's senior foreign policy adviser, was reported yesterday to have described Britain's stance over the single currency as irresponsible.

Mr Portillo, who has led

Conservative opposition to a single currency, rejected Herr Kohl's suggestion that Britain was "the slowest boat" in Europe, and would slow other countries down.

He firmly resisted plans to increase European integration, saying: "I believe the nation state still plays a very important part, that people identify with nation states. But nation states and nationalism are not the same thing. And what we're looking for is the way in which nations can collaborate together more and more," he told Sky TV.

However, he accepted Herr Kohl's comment that, through closer co-operation, countries were less likely to go to war, but claimed that the German leader was referring to the period surrounding the Second World War rather than today. "Of course, everybody would agree that nobody wants to go back to the sort of terrible nationalism that was unleashed in the 1930s and 1940s," he said. But Mr Portillo emphasised there were other global threats to peace outside Europe. Earlier, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, defending the Government's resistance to a significant expansion of European Union powers, said the EU would cease to exist unless all its member states could be accommodated. His remarks were enthusiastically welcomed by Tory Euro-sceptics, who said it was a welcome echo of Baroness Thatcher's "no nonsense" tone over Europe.

Leading article, page 17  
Single market at risk, page 40

## Britain savages nervous Germans

BY GEORGE BROCK

HELMUT KOHL and other senior German politicians allege that Britain, by talking down the chances of a European single currency or progress towards a united Europe, threatens the foundations of the continent's peace in the next century.

However, their anger is less a dire prediction and more a symptom of the panic in the German establishment as it realises the rest of Europe is suffering from federalism fatigue.

Nowhere was the new British aggression and German hesitation more evident than in Munich last Friday during a European foreign and defence policies discussion led by the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and his German counterpart, Klaus Kinkel.

British ministers no longer seem worried about saying the unsayable. Mr Rifkind was accompanied to Munich by Nicholas Soames, the junior Defence Minister, who told German listeners their ideas for a European army run by the EU did not make military sense.

German arguments for centralising EU foreign policy sound like flimsy mantras repeated out of habit rather than conviction, and the idea that a Maastricht II treaty should make the leap towards a federal Europe is disappearing under worries about rising unemployment.

## Russian issues warning over Nato expansion

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS

GERMANY and the United States tried unsuccessfully at the weekend to ease Russian fears about Nato enlarging eastwards. However, they succeeded only in triggering concern in Central Europe about the West's true intentions.

At the same time, Gennadi Zyuganov, the Russian Communist Party chairman who looks likely to be the leading challenger to Boris Yeltsin in the June presidential election, gave a warning that any expansion by Nato into Central Europe would disrupt the balance of power and could jeopardise ratification of the Start 2 nuclear disarmament treaty.

Mr Zyuganov, speaking at a press conference yesterday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, attempted to reassure Western Governments about his party's geopolitical intentions.

He recognised the United States as the "clear leader" in the new global structure, but insisted that Russia could not simply be "written off" as a world power.

Expanding Nato to embrace Poland and other Central European states would be a sign that the West wanted to recreate the Cold War bipolar structure. That would have "disastrous consequences for world security and the whole future of humanity," as Russia would have to reconsider its position on both conventional and nuclear disarmament, Mr Zyuganov said.

Helmut Kohl, the German

Chancellor, addressing senior politicians and defence experts at the annual Wehrkunde security conference in Munich, said the West had to address Moscow's anxiety about opening up the alliance to the Poles, Czechs and Hungarians. "I have the impression that the West does not think enough about the psy-



Zyuganov: expansion would disrupt balance

chological situation in Moscow," he said.

Germany, with Britain, has been an energetic champion of Central European membership of Nato. But over the past few months there have been signs that Germany is becoming lukewarm about the idea at least until after the Russian election. Every effort had to be made not to irritate Russia, Herr Kohl said. "We must

consider the understandable security interests of Russia and Ukraine. It goes without saying that it can only be harmful if a matter this important becomes a campaign theme on either side of the Atlantic."

"Lip-service was certainly paid to enlargement yesterday as both William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, and Javier Solana, the new Nato chief, emphasised the advantages to Moscow of a larger Nato. "Nato, far from being a threat to Russia, actually contributes to the security of Russia as well as the security of its own members," Mr Perry said. However, he conceded: "When I reached that conclusion most of the Russians I talked to fell off the cliff."

The strongest tone at the conference was set by Andrei Kokoshin, the Deputy Defence Minister and chief Russian speaker, who said enlargement could topple Russia's reform process. "The expansion of Nato in violation of the obvious obligations of the West not to expand it after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union consent to German unification might fundamentally undermine Russia's confidence in the policy of the West," Mr Kokoshin added.

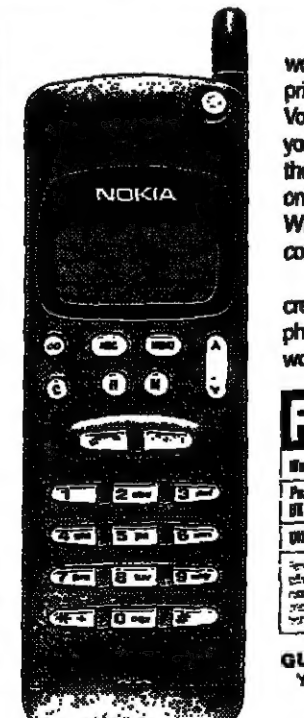
Nato was still seen as a basically hostile alliance. "Many of you see it as a changing entity. Russians view it as something that has not changed, which is taking advantage of our difficulties."

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## 'Madame Maigret' takes on the criminals of Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE new head of the *Brigade Criminelle*, the criminal investigation unit of the Paris police, strikes fear into the most hardened criminal, swears like a trooper and wears large dangling earrings.

Martine Monteil, 46, will today become the first female Commissaire of the elite unit often referred to simply as *La Crime*, an appointment that has sent a jolt through this hitherto male-dominated preserve. Mme Monteil's offices, on the top floor of 36, Quai des Orfèvres, were occupied most memorably by Commissaire Jules Maigret, the great fictional detective created by Georges Simenon. Long before her appointment, France's highest-ranking po-

licewoman was known as "Madame Maigret".

The daughter, granddaughter and wife of policemen, Mme Monteil looks like a society hostess but is widely regarded as one of the toughest officers on the force. Her desk lamp, made from her father's pistol, is the unequivocal statement of a woman who shoots from the hip.

In 1979, two years before the birth of her daughter, Mme Monteil became the first woman to be appointed as police commissioner. She often recalls how visitors would walk into her office and say "Excuse me Madame, I would like to talk to the commissioner." She said: "The good old boys who had been there twenty years

weren't going to take it at the start. I decided to hold on to my femininity, to use it without abusing it, to get on with my job while seeking advice from the veterans."

She worked, often undercover, in the Paris anti-drug squad and some of her greatest successes came as head of the anti-prostitution division. In 1992 she dismantled the high-society prostitution ring run by Fernande Grudet, known as Madame Claude. The former madam was apparently left with great respect for the woman who arrested her and has been quoted as applauding her promotion.

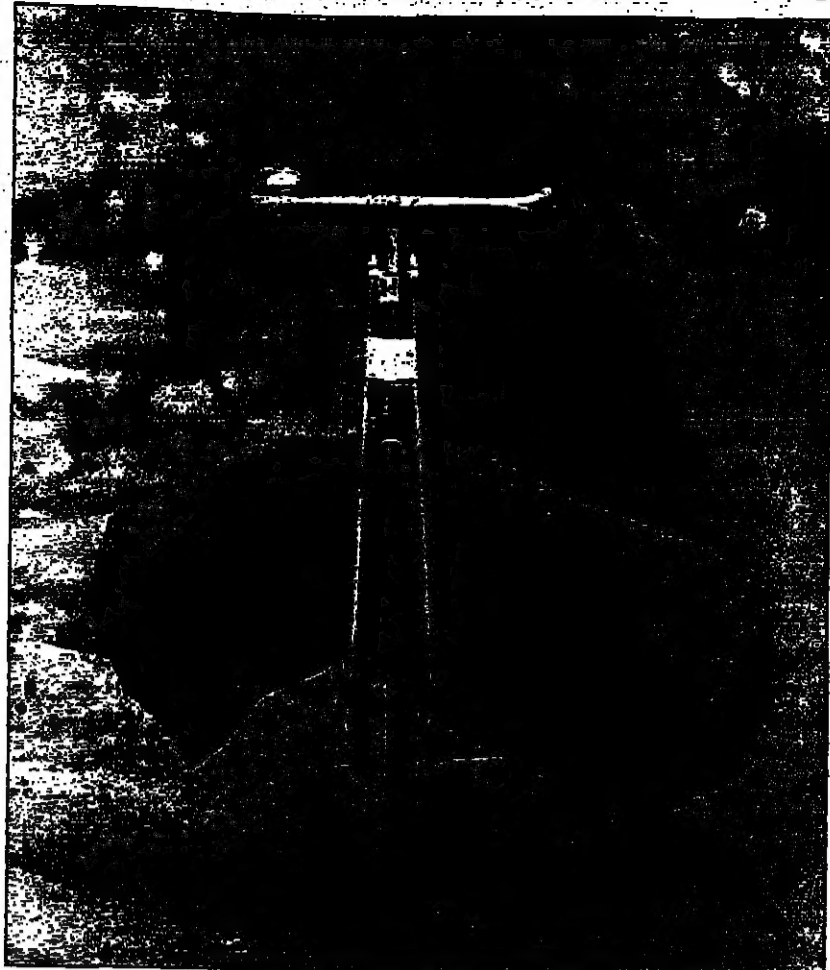
With 110 men under her command, Mme Monteil will now be in charge of the city's most high-profile cases.



Martine Monteil, who is renowned for her toughness



## Red Cross braves siege of Kabul to deliver aid for the victims of war



An Afghan boy, left, ferries home a bag of charcoal delivered to Kabul by the first flight of a Red Cross airlift. Veiled women, right, brandishing their ID cards, wait for food at the city's airport.

Twenty tonnes of emergency supplies were brought into the besieged and starving city on Saturday, but the International Committee of the Red Cross was forced to delay its operation by Customs officials in Pakistan. Relief agency sources said the Red Cross did not have an export license.

Andrei Mermillon, relief co-ordinator with the Red Cross, said: "The distribution today is for Kabul's war wounded, resulting from mines, rockets or bullets, and we will be supplying 945 families, about 5,000 to 6,000 people."

Pakistani Customs said yesterday that they would allow the Red Cross to resume its airlift today.

Kabul has been virtually cut off for nearly three weeks, with only occasional supplies reaching the city. Taliban fighters, entrenched in hills, have kept up a siege since October, vowing to replace President Burhanuddin Rabbani with a militant Islamic order.

Yesterday rebels fired artillery at Kabul, wounding two people. Seven artillery rounds hit a residential area of the city, witnesses said.

PHOTOGRAPHS:  
ADRIAN BROOKS



## Strong quake kills 240 in Chinese town

FROM JAMES PRINGLE  
IN PEKING

CHINESE rescue workers continued last night searching for survivors in the rubble of the remote town of Lijiang after one of the region's worst earthquakes in years, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale. The town, near the Tibetan border, was devastated and at least 240 people were killed and nearly 4,000 injured.

About 2,000 soldiers and police, supported by squads of doctors and nurses, were scouring the remains of mud-brick homes which collapsed when the earthquake struck Lijiang and surrounding villages in southwest Yunnan province, a provincial official said in Kunming, 1,300 miles from Peking.

Some people drowned in flash floods, officials said, and on one Lijiang farm 29 people were killed. About 10 per cent of the old-style houses in Lijiang were destroyed and water and electricity cut.

The toll could rise as rescue workers reach more isolated hamlets, the spokesman said. He described the earthquake as "terrifying".

The tremor shook the rugged, mountainous district for about six seconds at 7.14pm local time on Saturday when most people were at home. Residents fled into the street. Fearing aftershocks, they camped outdoors overnight, despite near-freezing temperatures.

Foreign tourists visiting the remote and scenic district that is the home of China's Naxi ethnic minority were evacuated from hotels in Lijiang and



moved into tents, spending the night around fires in the main city square.

More than 150 aftershocks have been recorded, including 18 measuring more than 4.0 on the Richter scale. About 16 of the 24 towns in the county also suffered considerable damage, officials said.

The nearby town of Zhongdian, capital of the Daping Tibetan autonomous region, was cut off from the outside world, the Xinhua agency said, adding that Yunnan's provincial government had sent officials to the area.

Seismologists last month forecast several earthquakes measuring from 6.0 to 7.0 in the region, Xinhua said. Since 1930, three earthquakes measuring more than 6.0 on the Richter scale have hit Lijiang and Zhongdian, the agency said. Southwest Yunnan is prone to earthquakes and was struck several times last year.

At a plea: The Red Cross Society of China appealed for international aid, saying it had informed the International Red Cross and sent five medical teams and 900,000 yuan (£7,500) worth of food, clothes, medicines and quilts to victims. (Reuters)

## Patten calls for talks on colony

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY  
IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday urged the Peking-appointed Preparatory Committee, which will formulate the government taking over next year, to enter into discussions with the Legislative Council.

In a radio address to the city, Mr Patten said everyone involved had a shared interest for "Hong Kong to make it through to 1998 and beyond in the best possible shape despite the pessimists and the critics". His suggestion is unlikely to find favour in Peking.

The committee was inaugurated ten days ago in Peking with a speech by President Jiang Zemin. Its 150 members, more than 90 of whom come from Hong Kong, were appointed by Peking and the body is chaired by Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister. Fourteen members concurrently sit on the Legislative Council, the 60-member democratically elected parliament.

The Preparatory Committee's main job is to recommend a 400-member "election committee", which will recommend a chief executive to succeed Mr Patten.

## Peking acts to police Internet

BY JAMES PRINGLE

THE Chinese authorities yesterday issued regulations governing access to the Internet. The rules take effect immediately and require all computer companies that provide access to the Internet to be officially approved. They also prohibit the distribution and reception of "seditious and pornographic" material.

Xinhua, the Chinese news agency, said anyone violating the regulations would be seriously dealt with. Diplomats said the Chinese move reflected a growing concern among many countries about the lack of direct legal regulation over the material which is readily available on the Internet in increasing quantities.

Under rules issued by Xinhua, all computer information networks must use channels provided by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPT) to hook up to networks abroad. All interactive networks will be subject to management by the MPT, the Ministry of Electronics Industry, the State Education Commission and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the regulations stipulate.

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# Republican also-rans spot an opening as race turns into a frantic gallop

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS in Louisiana cast the first votes tomorrow in the shortest, and potentially most shambolic, race yet for an American presidential nomination.

A record 33 of the 50 states will be holding primaries and caucuses over the next 48 hectic days because many, including California, have advanced their contests to try to increase their influence.

This truncation seemed of little consequence when Robert Dole,

the veteran Senate majority leader, was prohibitive favourite for the Republican nomination, but could matter immensely now his campaign is faltering.

Sieve Forbes, the multi-millionaire publisher, has exposed the shallowness of Mr Dole's support, but the political novice is scarcely a credible nominee himself. Were his balloon to burst — as many analysts predict — the Texas senator, Phil Gramm, former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, the conservative commentator Pat Buchanan, or even Indiana's Sen-

ator Richard Lugar could emerge from the obscurity in which they have languished so long.

In no state after Iowa and New Hampshire will Republican voters have the chance seriously to evaluate those alternatives to Mr Dole. The crush of contests will prevent real campaigning or meaningful debate. Candidates will be forced to sell themselves through 30-second commercials and airport soundbites.

The compressed timetable favours Mr Dole as easily the best-known and best-financed candi-

diate. But it means by late March the Republicans will be saddled with either a nominee who demonstrably fails to excite the troops or one hardly tested.

Either way he will be nearly broke, but ineligible for federal funds until his status is confirmed at a convention postponed until August because of July's Atlanta Olympics. By contrast, President Clinton, who faces no challenge for the Democratic nomination, will have a huge war chest to spend.

The irony is that the impact of the Iowa and New Hampshire

contests will be greater than ever, while those states that advanced contests have diminished, not increased, their influence. Louisiana is a prime example. Only Mr Gramm, Mr Buchanan and Alan Keyes, a black radio chat-show host, are contesting tomorrow's caucuses. The other six candidates feared offending Iowa voters furious that Louisiana is challenging that state's right to hold the nation's first caucus.

The Louisiana caucuses have thus been devalued, but are nonetheless an important subplot. All

three contestants are hardline conservatives. Whoever wins will portray himself as the true conservative standard-bearer going into next Tuesday's Iowa caucuses while the credibility of the losers will be badly damaged.

The stakes are especially high for Mr Gramm. From neighbouring Texas, he has worked Louisiana hard and has the backing of the state's Republican hierarchy which has rigged the rules to help him. To lose Louisiana would be a disaster, but he is being pressed hard by Mr Buchanan, the man

who savaged President Bush in 1992's Republican primaries.

Mr Buchanan is claiming the populist mantle of Huey Long, Louisiana's legendary Governor of the 1930s, presenting himself as the champion of ordinary working men against corporations moving jobs abroad. He won last week's straw poll of 10,000 Republicans in Alaska and is edging upwards in New Hampshire polls.

He argues: "If we can come out of Louisiana with a dramatic showing, I think it is all over for Phil Gramm."

## Big freeze across America kills 42 and blights crops

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ARCTIC cold swept across North America at the weekend, threatening to freeze the ears off cattle in Canada and endangering the citrus crop as far south as Florida.

Record low temperatures were measured from the Rocky Mountains in the West to the Atlantic coast and well into the Deep South. The tiny Minnesota town of Tower, which has a population of 500, broke a 97-year-old state record to become the coldest place in the United States at -60C (-76F). In Chicago, where 600 people died in a heatwave last summer, the authorities put their new "extreme weather operation plan" into operation to protect residents.

In Washington, which is still recovering from last month's huge blizzard, Marion Barry, the Mayor, appealed for federal assistance to clear 8 in of snow.

New record lows were posted for Utah, where Salt Lake City fell to -24C (-12F) and Alabama, where Huntsville posted a low of -14C (7F).

The temperature in normally steamy New Orleans plummeted to -5C (23F) while lows of -3C (26F) were expected overnight in citrus-growing areas of central Florida.

At least 42 deaths were attributed to the icy weather. In some cases these were due to fires started by individuals trying to keep warm.

Tens of thousands of homes

as far south as Louisiana and Mississippi found themselves without electricity as ice brought down powerlines, and garages were flooded with calls from motorists stranded on snow-bound roads.

The cold also brought its merrier moments, however. In International Falls, Minnesota, which calls itself the nation's ice box, one resident made a video of boiling water being thrown into the air and freezing before it hit the ground.

Two other residents of Minnesota braved a wind-chill factor of -40C (-40F) to get married in an outdoor ceremony at the annual winter carnival in the city of St Paul. Sherry Neary and Ken Wahlgren removed their gloves just long enough to exchange rings, and then slid down 200ft snow slides. "She melted the icicles off his moustache when she was kissing him," a carnival spokeswoman said.

The carnival cancelled appearances by all school bands because of the fear that youngsters playing brass instruments would get them frozen to their lips.

Despite the freezing temperatures, political campaigning continued in Iowa as Republican presidential contenders vied for votes in forthcoming state caucuses.

"This is a good place to meet," Steve Forbes, the mil-

lionaire publisher and presidential hopeful, told a group of voters gathered at a coffee shop. "You can get some hot coffee to warm your hands, and now you can get some hot air to warm the rest of you."

Wayne Sharp, a dairy farmer near Valentine, Nebraska, was coping with the severe cold in a house with only a wood-burning stove for heating. "It isn't a lot of fun," he said. "We shut off about four rooms and kind of live in the living room and the kitchen." And while his family was cold, he said his cows were irritable, with frost-bitten teats.

In Wisconsin, sponsors of the annual Badger State winter games in Wausau cancelled skiing and other outdoor events. About 5,500 amateurs were registered for the competition.

Along the Virginia coast, a cargo ship buffeted by high winds and an ground near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Freezing rain put a slippery glaze of ice on roads, trees and power lines across the lower Atlantic Coast states as far south as Georgia.

In North Carolina, a US Air jet that had landed at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport slid off a taxiway into grass. None of the crew and 21 passengers aboard the Boeing 737 was injured. The plane, which had arrived from Pittsburgh, was not damaged, according to airport officials.



Cattle, their muzzles and hides frozen by their breath, cluster together for warmth on a farm in Norwalk, Iowa.

## Britain a victim of ill wind's flight path

BY W. J. BURROUGHS

ONE reaction to the extremely cold weather gripping much of America is to assume that similar temperatures are coming our way. This seems to be based on the analysis that prevailing westerly winds will carry weather across the Atlantic within a week or so.

Taken at face value, this is a fallacy. The surges of Arctic air that bring cold weather to the eastern half of America are played out long before they cross the Atlantic. But there is a more subtle explanation for the possible connection between weather on each side of the

Atlantic. In winter, the westerly circulation of the jet stream, the strong winds in the upper atmosphere in the middle latitudes of the northern hemisphere, can get stuck in a meandering pattern.

Because this circulation steers the course of the surface weather systems, it leads to Arctic air being funnelled southwards in some places, while in intermediate regions this is balanced by warm sub-tropical air moving northwards.

Cold weather in eastern America is often linked to a circulation pattern centred on the Rocky Mountains, with warm air moving up the West Coast

while to the east cold air sweeps down from Canada. Downstream, the next wave in the meandering pattern can sometimes produce an area of high pressure close to Britain, which brings cold easterly winds.

In winters like those in 1940, 1963 and 1979, this pattern can be maintained for weeks. Long-term statistics suggest that there is little justification for assuming that the cold pattern will hold sway, and we are just as likely to have mild weather as to share in the discomfort of our American cousins.

Forecast, page 20

## Jerusalem café to take its last orders

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Café Atara, one of Jerusalem's great literary and social landmarks, which has survived for nearly six decades despite shelling and terrorist bombings, is finally to close. It has become the victim of the owner's decision to sell out to Pizza Hut, the latest American company to open a franchise in the Holy City.

The Atara, in the heart of Jewish west Jerusalem, reflected the European influence on life in the territory. Moshe Dayan, the war hero, was one of many top politicians who were regulars there. Amos Oz, the novelist, featured the café in one of his best-selling and countless romances blossomed amid the aroma of finely brewed coffee under its Art Deco roof.

The news of its closure has shattered many veteran customers already concerned by what President Weizman has called the "Americanisation" of Israel. Pizza Hut will join a non-kosher McDonald's, Blockbuster Videos, Tower



Moshe Dayan, who was a regular at Café Atara, in west Jerusalem, which is due to become a Pizza Hut

Records and Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream which have all recently opened in the centre of Jerusalem within a few hundred yards of each other. The Atara was founded in 1938 by Heinz Greenspan, a refugee from Nazi Germany. The café immediately attracted a lively and mixed clientele, including British officers, Palestinian businessmen, social-

ists and members of rival Jewish militias. Uri Greenspan, the founder's grandson, said he could not resist an offer from Pizza Hut to sell his tenant's rights for a reported \$330,000, and added that the café had never closed, even when Jerusalem was shelled in the 1948 War of Independence and the 1967 Six Day War.

## UN to cut 1,150 jobs at its HQ

BY JAMES BONE

THE United Nations, due to run out of money in April, is planning unprecedented job cuts at its New York headquarters. A confidential memorandum obtained by *The Times* says it will trim 1,150 people from its 14,000 staff by the end of this year.

The secretariat cutbacks have been forced on the UN by America, which lobbied successfully for a reduction in the organisation's budget to placate the Republican-controlled Congress. Members owe the UN about \$3.3 billion in unpaid dues, almost half of which is owed by America.

The memorandum, which records a meeting of the advisory panel on management and finance, says 210 professional staff and 480 clerical workers must go. The cuts "may affect some areas to such an extent that the activities cannot be sustained".

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, is expected to announce cost-savings at the General Assembly's budgetary committee tomorrow. It is rumoured he may shut the headquarters for a month.

## Christopher tries to hasten pace of Israeli peace talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

WARREN CHRISTOPHER, the US Secretary of State, today launches his seventh and most testing diplomatic mission between Israel and Syria in an attempt to boost peace talks before elections in both Israel and the United States this year.

Mr Christopher arrived in Jerusalem to find Israel already embroiled in pre-election fever. However, Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, has yet to make a formal announcement that the date of the poll is being brought forward from October 29 to either late May or early June.

After a meeting with Mr Peres yesterday, Ranan Cohen, the head of the ruling Labour Party's Knesset faction, lambasted the Likud opposition for criticising the reported decision to bring forward the poll and forecast that voting would take place on May 14, 21 or 28.

Likud, which is lagging badly in the opinion polls as a result of a backlash after the assassination in November of Yitzhak Rabin by a right-wing Jewish fanatic, took large advertisements in yesterday's Is-

raeli papers under the new slogan "Giving Up the Golan is National Suicide". The peace talks with Syria are likely to play a key role in what is expected to be a heated and divisive campaign.

American officials are re-signing to an early Israeli election, although privately admit that it will slow down, if not completely halt, the peace talks that have been taking place in Maryland.

Mr Peres, who claims that civil servants and not elected politicians are doing the talking, has vowed to keep the negotiations going, even if an early poll is announced.

Yesterday Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the Israeli Housing Minister, said Labour needed an early mandate from the people to make far-reaching decisions in talks with both Syria and the Palestinians.

The minister, whose background will be vital in helping Labour win votes among the Oriental Jewish community that has tended to favour Likud in recent years, claimed that early elections were a good idea to reduce the possi-

bility of months of attacks by Palestinian or Islamic terrorists, which could turn the electorate against the peace process.

The latest opinion poll published in Israel gave Mr Peres 46 per cent of the vote in his campaign to be re-elected as Prime Minister, compared with only 30 per cent for Binyamin Netanyahu, the Likud leader. Mr Peres has pledged that, if a peace deal with Syria is reached after the election, any decision to hand back the Golan Heights, conquered from Syria in 1967, would be subject to a national referendum.

Mr Christopher, who has invested much time and effort in his bid to tie up an Israeli-Syrian peace deal prior to the American presidential election in November, is expected to try to use the likelihood of an imminent poll in Israel as a tool to persuade Syria to hurry the present rather sedate pace of talks.

Israel has also asked him to try to arrange a summit between Mr Peres and President Assad, but that is considered unlikely at this stage.

## China at risk of US sanctions

Washington: The Administration has threatened tough sanctions against China unless it starts to honour a year-old trade deal ending Chinese piracy of American videos, music and computer software. (Martin Fletcher writes.)

Mickey Kantor, the American trade representative, has threatened 100 per cent tariffs on more than \$1 billion (\$667-million) of Chinese imports unless Peking closes more than 30 factories producing huge quantities of pirated products. The New York Times disclosed yesterday.

Some Administration officials fear Washington's hard line will damage its efforts to defuse rising tensions between China and Taiwan.

## Settler shoots Arab youth

Jerusalem: A Jewish settler opened fire on Palestinian students near a West Bank school, wounding a 16-year-old. An Israeli army spokesman said the Israeli driver started to fire after stones were thrown at his car.

The shooting took place in the Palestinian village of Sawiya, near Nablus. A worker at a hospital in Nablus said the 16-year-old youth was shot in the lower back and his condition after surgery was "moderate". (AP)

## Bomb suspect is deported

Nicosia: A Saudi man wanted for the November bombing of the American-run Saudi National Guard training centre in Riyadh, in which five Americans and two Indians died, has been deported to Saudi Arabia by Pakistan. (Michael Theodorou writes.) Hassan al-Sarraf had lived in Pakistan since 1990. Saudi dissidents blamed the attack on Islamic militants who fought against Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

## 'Million-dollar kicker' relaxes

New York: Michael Volino, the New York policeman who has won the chance to kick a million-dollar goal at an American football game in Hawaii, has prepared for it by following his wife's advice and relaxing by the pool. (James Bone writes.) Sergeant Volino will win \$1 million if he scores the equivalent of a rugby place kick from 25 yards.

## Gunmen attack publisher

Lagos: Alex Ibru, publisher of Nigeria's leading independent newspaper, *The Guardian*, has survived a murder attempt, the newspaper said. He was shot inside his car in Lagos. Doctors said Mr Ibru, 61, was hit in the head and may lose his left eye. He was also shot in the leg. (Reuters)

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GOLF



22

Woosnam drives back to top of the world

ATHLETICS



23

Gunnell happy to settle for second best

RUGBY UNION



25

Why are England so slow on the uptake?

SCHOOLS SPORT



24

Kwik way proves more than hit and miss

# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5 1996



Peacock sweeps in his second and Chelsea's third goal during their impressive dismissal of an outclassed and shell-shocked Middlesbrough at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

## Gullit masterminds demolition of Middlesbrough Chelsea turn back the clock

Chelsea ..... 5  
Middlesbrough ..... 0  
By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

CHELSEA have not flowed like this not dominated opponents or passed the ball with such mellifluous touch for at least a quarter of a century. They were ruthless for 70 minutes yesterday, taking a pitiable Middlesbrough apart, scoring five times when the total could almost have been double.

It takes them to within three points of the fourth-placed team in the FA Cup Premiership. It takes the fathers of small sons back to their own boyhood when players of the essence of Charlie Cooke, Alan Hudson and Peter Osgood were filling Stamford Bridge with film stars, non-stars and tens of thousands of people who came to appreciate that the ball had a greater purpose than merely being a wind-bag hoisted uncaringly the length of the field by British boots.

In fact, this was the biggest Chelsea win in the top flight since 1964 and only Ruud Gullit, of this side, was alive, just, in that vintage year. Glenn Hoddle was then a youngster and is now the builder of this new Chelsea revolution, a builder, who learnt that he and his wonderful brand of football was better appreciated on the Continent.

So it is that Hoddle may be a target for the Football Association as coach of England instead of the man whose team — whose reserves — his Chelsea so soundly whipped yesterday. Bryan Robson reiterated afterwards that he has not been offered Terry Venables's job and that he feels such an offer would be premature in his coaching life. Hoddle was somewhat more enigmatic when the same proposition was put to him by the

press, for they are messengers only of speculation and Hoddle insists that nobody can turn down a job that "nobody has been offered".

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, reveling in rumours of renewed feuding in the boardroom, was in typically "shy" mood on Saturday when asked if he would release his manager for the betterment of England. "Glenn would be an absolute idiot if he were to take the England job," Bates, who happens to be an FA councillor, retorted.

Yet why pontificate on what may or may not be when the football laid before the audience at Stamford Bridge was so majestic? Gullit, effectively the coach in motion, the catalyst for the quite astonishing improvement in passing and vision at Chelsea, could himself be a candidate to lead England if ever Lancaster Gate drops its appalling "no foreigners" myopia.

From midfield, Gullit orchestrated the slaughter of the Middlesbrough lambs. The visitors, still struggling to acclimatise to life in the Premiership after their promotion from the Endleigh Insurance League first division last season, could not cope with not only Juninho but five other

Clough refocused ..... 26  
Cantona returns ..... 27  
South Africa's cap ..... 29

senior players absent. They did not show the slightest knowhow of how to stop a giant Dutchman with a 9ft stride and marvellous peripheral vision. They did not dare go forward enough to prevent David Lee, an English defender, from coming forward to stroke the ball 20 or 30 yards with his right foot as if he were well, another Gullit.

Thus they destroyed Middlesbrough. The first goal, it has to be said, was an error by that excellent referee, Keith Cooper. After a corner from Lee in the 25th minute, Middlesbrough pushed up out of defence, leaving Gullit patently offside, his enormous frame right in front of the goalkeeper, Walsh. Nevertheless, when Peacock struck the ball with his right foot, the shot was allowed to bounce in front of and then past the unsighted keeper and to count as a goal.

That slight excuse began Middlesbrough's haze. Three minutes later, a thoroughly legitimate second goal came via the exceptional passing ability of the Romanian, Petrescu. His arrival after two strangely wasted seasons at Sheffield Wednesday has coincided with his opening up of skills seen to the full in the Romania national team and his pass to Spencer was followed by fine control

on the thigh by the little Scot and then a merciless right-foot shot across Walsh.

Seven minutes later, Gullit was pulling the strings again. He exchanged a one-two with Spencer, both of them moving off the ball with intuitive expectation, and then the Dutchman, with the goal seemingly at his mercy, selflessly turned inside instead, saw Peacock and presented his colleague with his second goal of the afternoon.

Peacock was to complete his hat-trick, the first he has scored in the Premiership, after Spencer's wonderful job in the 55th minute, but, before then, the 21,000-strong Chelsea crowd saw something they had given up hope of seeing on their own turf — a goal from Furlong. Even he, apparently a bad boy by Hoddle at over £2 million, is learning the art of refinement. Gullit, inevitably, began the move, striking the ball 40, maybe 50 yards to Petrescu. The Romanian looked for Furlong, found him and then the big centre forward gathered the ball with his left foot, held off Liddle with body strength and finished the goal with his right foot.

Some people became heated by a little spat on the touchline involving Mike Kelly, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper coach, Hudson and Osgood, but why did they bother? We had watched a master class in action, we had seen before our very eyes that a foreigner like Gullit (if there are any more) can inspire and instil British players to use the ball mesmerically, inventively, accurately. Confidence, says Hoddle, is the key.

Chelsea (3-4-2-1): K. Nicholson — F. Sinclair (John E. Johnston, 80th), D. Lee, S. Clarke — D. Petrescu, E. Newton, R. Gullit, T. Phelan — J. Spencer (sub. J. Morrison, 74), G. Peacock — P. Furlong.

Middlesbrough (5-3-1-1): G. Walsh — R. Cox, N. Pearson, S. Vickers, C. Liddle, C. Morris — C. Higgins, K. O'Halloran, C. Blackburn — N. Barry — J. A. Fyfe (sub. P. Wilkinson, 60).

Referee: K. Cooper (Pontypool)

## Parma pull out of Asprilla deal

By PETER BALL

THE saga of Faustino Asprilla's proposed £7 million transfer from Parma to Newcastle United came to an abrupt end when officials of the clubs met in Milan yesterday. Parma, the Italian League club, withdrew from the deal, claiming that Newcastle had tried to cut the fee because of doubts about Asprilla's fitness.

"Newcastle continue to maintain that there are problems with Asprilla's knee, and so they want a big cut in the price," Giorgio Pedraneschi, the Parma president, said after his club's 1-0 win over Sampdoria yesterday. "We have medical reports which tell us the opposite, and as a result it was not possible to reach any agreement."

With Sir John Hall away, Douglas Hall and Freddie Shepherd, directors, in Dayton, and Freddie Fletcher on his way back from Milan, nobody from Newcastle was available to comment last night. That, at least, was in keeping with the progress of negotiations so far, the club having had little to say on the transfer from the moment that doubts surfaced about Asprilla's fitness.

The transfer has been on ice for two weeks, ever since an X-ray during Asprilla's medical revealed a problem with his knee. Parma have maintained that this was from an old injury, in 1991, and that Asprilla, the Colombia international forward, has been untroubled since. Newcastle have wanted further tests, which the Italian club refused.

Parma have maintained that the transfer was agreed, and are now considering whether to seek arbitration from Fifa, football's world governing body. "We will decide that in the next few days," Pedraneschi said. "If we do that, it will be above all to protect ourselves, and so that everyone knows that the contract is valid and the player is healthy."

Asprilla watched Parma's win yesterday, which took them to second place in Serie A. "I am still tempted by Newcastle's offer, but seeing how things have gone, I'm happy to stay with Parma," he said.

The Football Association of Ireland is expected to announce today that Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, will be the new manager in succession to Jack Charlton.

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## Building up to battle of the cheekbones

One of the more popular programmes offered by an American television station before last weekend's Super Bowl XXX was apparently a racy little number called *Real Men Don't Watch Pre-Game*. I'm not entirely sure what the content was, but its title returned to haunt me on Saturday afternoon.

Well, racing from Chepstow and skiing from Garmisch cancelled, the end of *Football Focus* heralded the beginning of an unexpectedly long road to Twickenham. It was barely one o'clock. Was this really a proper way for anyone to spend the first half of Saturday afternoon? Well, unexpectedly, it was — to such an extent that for anyone watching in England and Wales the pre-game (or build-up as we call it on this side of the Pond) was

actually more interesting than the match itself. The Scots, of course, fared rather better.

The key to the BBC's success was Nick Farr-Jones, as articulate and outspoken an Australian as you could hope to meet. Introduced by Steve Rider as a man capable of giving "the impartial view", Farr-Jones went for England like ... well, like a former captain of the Wallabies. He had left Parc des Princes "very deflated", he told us, and then, without repetition, hesitation or deviation, explained why. It was good stuff — especially if you were Welsh.

Stung by the attack and mindful perhaps that this handsome Australian could be after his slot as the drinking woman's pundit, Rob Andrew met fire with fire — trading long sentences and technical insights with dazzling ease.



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

Rarely can four chiselled cheekbones have duelled to such good effect. With none of his colleagues' natural eloquence (or their cheekbones) Jonathan Davies sensibly opted for long periods of silence, just occasionally contributing a comment about "the lads" or "commitment". Amid all the talk of drift defences and the expansive game such old fashioned punditry was rather refreshing.

In the commentary box, Bill Beaumont stepped temporarily aside to let Eddie Butler, a

Welshman, in to work alongside the ever-so-English Nigel Stanger-Smith. They worked well together, but perhaps should have been harder on the catalogue of unforced errors. Perhaps like Jack Rowell and the rest of us they couldn't believe what they were seeing. The one exception to the BBC's admirably balanced approach to commentary teams is the French. A fortnight ago Stanger-Smith and Beaumont was considered the appropriate mix for France against England and so it was again at

Murrayfield, where Bill McLaren and John Jeffrey were suitably impartial for Scotland and France. Given that most of the French team now speak better English than some of their home nation counterparts, it is a policy whose days are surely numbered. *N'est-ce pas?*

A significant pause by Stanger-Smith, shortly after the final whistle, marked the only part of the day that did not go according to plan. The Twickenham public address system gave away the result from Murrayfield before the highlights had been shown. Huge cheers in the crowd, huge groans in the BBC's mobile control unit.

But the best over-goal of the weekend goes to Eurosport, which, after showing more than 20 games from the African Nations Cup, was forced

by prior commitments to the ATP tennis tour to show a recording of the final between South Africa and Tunisia — six hours after President Mandela had presented Neil Tovey with the trophy.

The end, I suspect, could not come soon enough for Archie Macpherson, who has spent the past month in Eurosport's Paris studios, pretending he is in South Africa, pretending he can read the names and numbers of the players' shirts off a television monitor. By Saturday night it sounded like cabin-fever had set in, with Macpherson tackling race, apartheid and, somehow, the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior with terrifying abandon. Eventually, the final whistle brought relief. "It's all over," shouted Macpherson. "It's all academic! [sic] now." Thankfully it was ...

### Ryder Cup player back to his best

## Woosnam regains the form which mastered Augusta

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN PERTH

IAN WOOSNAM seems hellbent on dismissing the memories of a wretched 1995. After victory in Singapore last Sunday, he snatched first place in the Heineken Classic at The Vines yesterday from under the nose of Paul McGinley.

Woosnam did it in the thrilling, nerveless way that true champions are supposed to, and in doing so he transported us back to 1991, the year of his victory in the US Masters, when he last won successive tournaments. In those days, the world No 1 made the complicated business of hitting a golf ball look as simple as knocking the heads off daisies with an upturned walking stick.

An engrossing afternoon's play on a severe course made all the more difficult by a testing wind came down to a test of Woosnam's skill and courage, two of the requirements for a true champion. Could the Ryder Cup player squeeze a birdie out of the 57-yard closing hole and draw ahead of McGinley and Jean Van de Velde, who, playing just ahead, had finished on 278, ten under par?

You might as well ask whether Woosnam is Welsh and whether he has lost his club contract with Maruman,

for he now keeps his clubs in a black golf bag unmarked save for the name of the club that he represents, Celtic Manor, the new complex at Newport, Gwent. The answer to both queries is yes and the challenge to Woosnam's nerve that was issued just before six o'clock on another glorious sunlit afternoon was also answered affirmatively.

After a long drive that avoided the Scylla and Charybdis of water on the left of the fairway and three men-

ing bunkers on the right, Woosnam hit a five-iron with thrilling accuracy, forgoing the comfort of aiming for the fat of the green.

His ball plummeted into the putting surface less than three feet from the flag and stopped ten feet away. Two putts later, he had gone round in 72 for a 72-hole total of 277, 11 under par. It was his 29th victory in a European Tour event and his 38th worldwide.

Woosnam's revival is the result of changes both physical and technical. Doctors have told him that he must strain his back. "Swimming every now and then is all

right," Woosnam was told. He liked that advice because he is not one of life's natural exercisers, preferring instead to pass the time sitting with a drink in his hand and a cigarette in his mouth.

Bill Ferguson, a down-to-earth Yorkshireman who has been Colin Montgomerie's only coach, has helped to get Woosnam's swing back on track.

"I'm a natural," Woosnam said. "Bill has persuaded me to keep doing it simple. He makes nothing complicated. It's impossible for me to think of ten things to do with each swing. He just keeps my rhythm going."

Woosnam was paired with John Daly, his co-leader after 54 holes, but the strong wind accounted for the Open champion, who completed 72 holes without once using a wood. These two moved so quickly that they were constantly waiting for McGinley and Van de Velde. Daly, for example, had walked five yards from the tee of the short 4th before his ball landed on the green.

McGinley offered the most resolute challenge. He started the day at ten under par, birdied the 1st, and made almost his only mistake over the last five holes when he missed the fairway at the 18th.

This meant that knowing he needed a birdie, he forced himself to the limit with his second shot. He used a driver, where Woosnam would later use a five-iron. Straining every sinew, McGinley might hit the ball slightly, the ball ended in a rake mark in a greenside bunker and he could not hole out in two strokes from there.

McGinley had to settle for a 72 and his fourth second place finish on the European Tour since he turned professional late in 1991. Not winning when he could, and perhaps should, is becoming a thing with him, but McGinley, 29, from Dublin, can take consolation from the fact that he was beaten by a great player at the peak of his form.

"I am very disappointed," McGinley, who had held the lead on his own several times during the last round, said. "I had the chances and I did not take them; but I have to take it on the chin. Besides, Woosnam is a streak player, and when he is on form, as he is now, he is the best player in the world."



Woosnam gets a pat of congratulation from Daly after his decisive last-hole birdie.

### Ballesteros offered captaincy

THE captaincy of the European Ryder Cup team for the match against the United States at Valderrama, Spain, in 1997 has been offered to Severiano Ballesteros (John Hopkins writes). The possibility that he will become the first playing captain since Dai Rees filled both roles at Royal Lytham and St Anne's in 1961 has been discussed and has not been dismissed.

"I can confirm that I have met Seve in connection with the Ryder Cup and the captaincy of the 1997 team," Schofield said in Perth last night. "In fact, I've had two meetings with him, one before Christmas and one since. They went very well. I now have to

report back to the Ryder Cup Committee which will meet within one month."

Ballesteros is the natural successor to Bernard Gallacher, the captain of the 1991, 1993 and 1995 teams, and is the obvious choice to succeed Gallacher when the first Ryder Cup to be held in Spain is staged in September next year.

Hitherto, however, discussions with Ballesteros had not taken place and there was also concern as to how best to approach the delicate issue of whether or not Ballesteros would want to be — or could be — a playing captain.

The recent announcement of Tom Kite as the captain of the

American team injected some urgency into the selection process regarding the European captain.

To that end, Schofield began talks with Ballesteros and I understand that the Spaniard, who is coming to the end of a five-month break from competitive golf, was as receptive to all that Schofield said to him as Schofield was to what Ballesteros said.

At this stage I do not believe there is any real barrier to Ballesteros becoming a playing captain — should he rediscover his real form and should he so wish it. Following our talks I am very optimistic on all fronts," Schofield said.

## Pankratov emulates Gross achievement

DENIS PANKRATOV became only the second swimmer to hold simultaneously world records at 100 and 200 metres butterfly in both long and short course (25-metre and 50-metre pools) as the sixth round of the World Cup reached Paris at the weekend (Craig Lord writes). Previously, only Michael Gross, of Germany, had held all four records at the same time.

The Russian last night swam 51.94sec over the 100 metres short course, 0.13sec inside the record that had stood to Marcel Gery, of Canada, since 1990. On Saturday, over 200 metres, he swam the whole of the first length underwater, bar one stroke into the turn, and left Franck Esposito, of France, trailing by five seconds as he won in 1min 52.94sec, 0.71sec inside the time that Esposito set two years ago.

## Mason settles for second

BOBSLEIGH: Cecilia Mason, the Scottish lance corporal who was banned from taking part in the skeleton bobsleigh World Cup series because organisers ruled that only men could compete, yesterday finished second in a women's international event in Germany. Mason, 20, recorded 1min 45.28sec on a track at Königssee. The winner of the event, in which competitors reach 85mph on sleighs that look like tea trays with runners, was Michelle Kelly, of Canada, in 1min 43.49sec. Five nations took part.

## Seizinger takes title

SKIING: Katja Seizinger, of Germany, right, was in a class of her own yesterday in Val d'Isère as she recorded a victory, her third in as many days, in the super giant slalom, earning her the World Cup title in that discipline with one race remaining. She also leads in the overall World Cup, having won another super giant slalom on Friday and a downhill on Saturday.



## Henman falls short

TENNIS: Tim Henman, the British No 1, was beaten 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 by Andrei Olhovskiy, of Russia, in the semi-finals of the ATP Shanghai Open on Saturday. It was the first time that Henman, 21, from Oxford had reached the last four of an ATP Tour event.

□ Boris Becker will miss Germany's Davis Cup match with Switzerland in Geneva next week because of injury.

## Benjamin's return

CRICKET: Winston Benjamin, the West Indies fast bowler, has told Hampshire that he will spend the summer as their overseas player. Benjamin was sent home from the West Indies tour of England last summer for disciplinary reasons and has been omitted from their World Cup squad. "He is half-way through a contract and intends to see it out," Mike Taylor, the Hampshire commercial manager, said.

## Male makes class count

RACKETS: James Male, the world champion, looked sharp and determined as he reached the quarter-finals of the Lacoste British Open championship, beating Howard Angus, the former world champion, in three entertaining games. Angus showed flashes of his old skills, but Male was always a class apart, raising his game whenever he needed to and playing some exquisite double-handed winners.

## Majoli makes her mark

TENNIS: Iva Majoli, of Croatia, right, beat Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, the No 3 seed, 6-4, 6-1 to win the Pan Pacific Open women's indoor title in Tokyo and then, understandably, said that the win had capped the best week of her life. Majoli, 18, took only 72 minutes to beat Sánchez Vicario, having accounted for Monica Seles, the No 1 seed, in the quarter-finals.



## Hampton's head start

ROWING: Hampton, with three men on board who competed for Great Britain in the world junior championships last year, began the 1996 season with a victory by 1sec on their home course on Saturday. In spite of the early date, 124 eights and fours competed in the Hampton Head and the home club pipped a large St Paul's crew stroked by Dan Ouseley, who was in the 1995 Great Britain coxless four.

## Cardiff rally in vain

ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils scored three unanswered goals in the last period but still had to be content with an 8-8 draw with Humberstone Hawks in the British League (Norman de Mesquita writes). They lost some ground at the top of the premier division as Sheffield Steelers beat Fife Flyers by the odd goal in seven to increase their lead to three points. Nottingham Panthers beat Milton Keynes 6-3.

## St Helens settle McRae's anxieties

Castleford ..... 16  
St Helens ..... 58

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

DURING his first match in charge of St Helens, Shaun McRae could be seen drawing his peaked cap over his eyes as his rugby league side endured shaky spells on its way to overwhelming victory yesterday in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth round.

McRae, a pragmatic Australian, despite his anxieties, does not want to sacrifice St Helens' natural attacking inclination to the need for sounder defence. After an unsatisfactory half-hour, in which Castleford twice fought level, the balance was struck. The visitors scored the remaining seven of ten tries without reply.

"At half-time, I made the point that, if they wanted to play touch rugby, they should

go to the local park; it was a case of we score, you score," McRae said.

Paul Newlove's three tries were instrumental in his man-of-the-match award, but the predatory instincts of Chris Joynt made a good case for recognising the powerhouse in the second row. Bobbie Goulding had on his ringmaster's hat in organising the



Newlove: three tries

show and landed nine of ten goals.

With a fifth-round encounter at Rochdale on Sunday, St Helens can look to the quarter-finals with confidence, while Castleford, whose spirit drained away in alarming fashion, have much to do in before the Super League starts at the end of next month.

The home side maintained a dogged pursuit before being brushed aside in as contemptuous a manner as old stagers at Weldon Road could recall. Smith, following up a teasing chip by Steadman, replied to Arnold's opening of the St Helens account, which Newlove promptly re-started with two quickfire tries, in supporting first Sullivan and then Joynt down the left.

In the gentleman's excuse-me that passed for both defences in the opening half, Goddard had a free pass for Castleford's next try and Sampson was allowed to

reach out and score, before St Helens steadied the ship with two outstanding tries.

Out of the back of his hand, Newlove popped up a pass on halfway to Sullivan, who just outpaced Smith to slither over. Then, Joynt stumbled his way in from 30 metres out.

The second half was one-way St Helens traffic over a well-trampled Castleford. Northey, Hammond, Newlove, with his third try, Mautala and, finally, Prescott, going the length of the field, brought McRae and St Helens to their feet.

SCORES: Castleford: Tries, Smith, Goddard, Sampson, Goale, Goddard 25. St Helens: Tries, Newlove, Joynt, Northey, Hammond, Mautala, Prescott, Goale, Goulding 59.

CASTLEFORD: J. Flowers, C. Smith, A. Platt, R. Goddard, J. Goddard, G. Steadman, G. Steadman, D. Sampson, C. McRae, N. Smith, S. Smith, J. T. Harris, T. Harris, A. Scott, G. B. T. Harris, T. Harris.

## Keen Waldron makes life easy for Riders

OF ALL the Americans signed by Budweiser League clubs before the transfer deadline last week, it was the old stager who made the biggest impression (Nicholas Harling writes). Gene Waldron came out of retirement at 34 and demonstrated that he had lost none of his former accuracy by shooting 17 points to help Leicester City Riders to move clear of the bottom of the table with an 82-68 victory over Newcastle Comets.

It was with a three-pointer that Waldron enabled the Riders to end the first quarter at 18-18. And it was another basket from the veteran playmaker that took the Riders to a narrow interval lead of 44-40 after which their victory, only their sixth in the league this season, was never in doubt.

Waldron's compatriot, Rich Aigner, finished as Leicester's leading scorer with 32 points,

four more than Russ Saunders, recently appointed as player-coach, could manage for the Comets.

Those individual tallies were considerable improvements on the contributions made by the newcomers on show in the Nynex Arena, where Worthing Bears defeated Manchester Giants 83-77. Tim Garrett, the replacement for Derrick Blair, who returned to Cleveland complaining of "broken promises", sank only two baskets for the Bears.

The outstanding marksman of the weekend was Tony Dorsey, whose 36 points helped Birmingham Bullets to follow up the surprise win on Friday over the leaders, London Towers, with a more predictable 95-88 success over Chester Jets, who stayed in contention until near the end largely because of Waymon Boone's 31 points.

### SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	Last an.
	L	U	Piste	Off-piste	
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	5	75	fair	heavy	art
					(Snow falling at last; more forecast)
Schladming	40	80	good	powder	good
					(Excellent skiing with fresh powder)
Seefeld	10	50	good	varied	closed
					(Good skiing in all main areas; lower runs warn)
FRANCE					
Avoriaz	80	120	good	varied	good
					(Fresh snow but poor visibility; more snow forecast)
Flaine	25	150	good	varied	worn
					(New snow but flat light; low runs still warn)
Megève	5	65	fair	varied	worn
					(Plots improved with new snow; underlying base warn)
La Tignes	20	80	good	powder	closed
					(New snow improving piste considerably; flat light)
Tignes	85	145	good	powder	good
					(Excellent snow everywhere but avoid visibility)
ITALY					
Cervinia	100	300	good	powder	good
					(Excellent skiing everywhere; plenty of powder)
SWITZERLAND					
C Montana	0	115	fair	varied	closed
					(Some new snow at altitude; low runs still warn)
Zermatt	30	155	good	powder	fair
					(Excellent skiing available but some areas still warn)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.



Impressive run puts Olympic champion on track to defend her title

# Return of Gunnell is timed to perfection

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

SALLY GUNNELL yesterday surpassed her most optimistic assessment of how she might do in her comeback when she ran 400 metres quicker than she managed in her first race of 1993. That was the year she set a 400 metres hurdles world record, adding the world title to her Olympic gold medal.

Now she can look forward with renewed confidence to defending her Olympic title six months hence. In finishing second behind Melanie Neef in the AAA of England indoor championships in Birmingham, she recorded 53.07sec, compared with the 53.36sec she ran first time out in 1993. "I could not have asked for more," Gunnell said.

Neef's presence was just what Gunnell needed. Drawn inside Gunnell, Neef made up the stagger on the first bend

Results 31

and front-ran to the finish, setting a Scottish record of 52.50sec.

This was Gunnell's first appearance on a British track for 17 months and only her third race in that time. It was a thorough test of the heel and tendon injury that prevented her from defending her world title last year. Not only was Neef, the European Cup champion, a formidable opponent, but Gunnell had to race two rounds on Saturday to reach the final.

"I was worried about doing three rounds: I thought I might push my foot too much," Gunnell said. She realised she probably was not pushing too much "when I woke up at 3am to go to the loo". No sign of stiffness after two rounds on Saturday.

"I wanted to run what I did going into 1993," Gunnell added. "I would have been happy with anything in that region."

Given that, after surgery, it was November before Gunnell resumed full training, December before "it was starting to flow" and January before she was training twice a day, this was a highly satisfactory weekend. She has three more indoor races planned. Gunnell is up to date with leg drills over hurdles — "what I usually do at this time of year" — and will start work on her stride pattern next month.

Although Gunnell has no intention of attempting the European indoor championships next month, Neef probably will, as will Mark Hyton, winner of the men's 400 metres. Hyton has won the title twice before his twentieth birthday. His 46.45sec puts him seventh on the British all-time list and he will expect to be quicker next week when, back in Birmingham for the Ricoh Tour, he faces Darnell Hall, the world indoor champion, Charles Gitonga, the Commonwealth champion, and Du'aine Ladejo, the European indoor and outdoor champion. "I cannot wait: I am going out to get a few scalps," Hyton said.

While Gunnell arrived after injury to test her fitness, Linford Christie, Britain's other Olympic champion, arrived fit but left injured. Christie pulled up in the 60 metres final after showing impressive form over 100 metres in Australia the weekend before.

Christie, who hurt an adductor, will inform the British Athletic Federation (BAF) today that he is out of the Birmingham meeting on Saturday. "He is definitely out," Sue Barrett, his manager, said. He will fly to Germany this week to visit the Munich doctor to whom he usually turns for treatment. "We do not know exactly the extent of the damage," Barrett added. "It does not look as if there is much of an indoor season left for him."



Gunnell, plainly delighted with her performance, steps up to congratulate the winner, Neef, in Birmingham yesterday

Michael Rosswess, who trailed Christie when injury struck, was thus fortunate to win a third successive title. Mike Oluban, Rosswess's coach, has taken a job in Japan which means that, not only has the athlete lost his trainer, but Birmingham has one less female entertainer to call on. Oluban is on a one-year contract coaching Japan's leading sprinters.

It strikes Rosswess as ironic

that the Japanese federation is putting financial support into its sprinters while he has to "go it alone". He suggested it was desecrating that, according to the BAF pay scale, a 10.40sec 100 metres was worth an appearance fee of only £100. "BAF do not support you," Rosswess complained.

Nick Buckfield set his third British indoor pole-vault record in eight days, with 5.61 metres. Doug Turner moved

up to No 8 in the all-time 200 metres rankings, winning in 21.06sec. Michelle Dunkley, 18, won the women's high jump and Judy Oakes has almost as many national titles as she has had birthdays. Aged 37, she has 36, after winning the shot.

The Great Britain Olympic marathon selectors met on Saturday and will announce names today. The meeting took three hours. The runners

they have chosen are expected to be quicker in Atlanta.

By far the most impressive indoor performance of the weekend came from Haile Gebrselassie, of Ethiopia, who set a world indoor 3,000 metres record yesterday when he ran 7min 30.72sec at a meeting in Stuttgart. The previous record, of 7min 35.15sec, was set by Moses Kiptanui, of Kenya, in Gent, Belgium, in February 1995.

## Right to view strikes back at pay to view

David Miller on whether leading events should be ring-fenced for public TV



Lord Howell, the former Minister for Sport, yesterday welcomed a psychological advantage before kick-off: the agreement by BSkyB to allow BBC Television to screen highlights of the forthcoming cricket World Cup. Sky, with exclusive live coverage, had attempted to block the BBC's bid.

The controversy over the Broadcasting Bill, tabled by the National Heritage Department, takes a critical step tomorrow with debate in the Upper House, at the committee stage, on amendments submitted by an all-party group led by Howell. These amendments include the issue of "ring-fencing", the principle of any channel with exclusive live rights allowing limited, delayed highlights by another.

Sky's contract, with the European Professional Golfers' Association, for example, specifically banned highlights being allocated to BBC. At the heart of the debate lie counter philosophies, on which Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, in her intended comments of clarification last week, remained equivocal.

On the one hand, Howell, supported on both sides of the Lords, seeks to preserve the widest audience for "highlight" events — on terrestrial rather than satellite channels — in order to generate maximum interest in the game and to foster the development among young people inspired by witnessing the action. Nick Faldo was ten when he first saw Jack Nicklaus on television.

On the other hand, sports governing bodies seek a free market to expand income. The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) has campaigned for cricket to be taken off the protected list, with the Boat Race and the first 11 days of the Wimbledon tennis championships. Cricket's television income has risen from £1.5 million in 1989 to £60 million in 1995; 20 per cent of which is earmarked for grass-roots development.

"Sky are trying to say we want to stop sport on Sky, which is quite untrue," Howell said. "We are seeking to protect the listed events."

Those are the FA and Scottish Cup finals, the Grand National and the Derby, the Wimbledon finals and home Test matches, the Olympic Games and football's World Cup finals. The amendments include a prohibition on subscription as well as pay-per-view satellite channels; the prevention of sports bodies such as the Premier League creating its own channel; and the establishment of an advisory board.

David Elstein, head of programmes for Sky, insists that there should not be legal obstruction of the free market by Act of Parliament, an opinion seemingly supported by Bottomley. Elstein argues that, theoretically, the listed events provide BBC and ITV with larger audi-

ences at the expense of the sport, which might otherwise gain a higher rights fee.

So far, Sky has not bid for the subscription channel rights to listed events, which the amendment seeks to block, and only one per cent of BBC and ITV events have shifted to Sky. BBC's main losses are to ITV — the FA Cup Final and Formula One motor racing from next year — and the Cheltenham racing festival to Channel 4.

Bottomley's error is not to have initiated consultation among various parties before drawing up the Bill. There are five separate areas of interest in the sale of an event by the rights owner: the "what", which pursues the event's ratings; the event's sponsor partners, who want exposure; the governing body/rights owner, which as trustee wants cash; the viewers; and, in an abstract sense, the reputation of the sport itself. All are affected.

A public service broadcaster like the BBC has a partial duty to inform as well as entertain; to be balanced and, in that sense, educational. Public service broadcasting goes hand in hand with John Major's initiative, *Raising the Game*, which pursues both grass-roots development and international excellence at Olympic level.

If, as Sebastian Coe pointed out in the first stages of the Commons debate, more than 22 million people in Britain are in some way associated with sport, there is a risk that exclusive coverage of a major sport by a satellite channel creates a kind of cultural divide.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, is adamant that the Olympics remain with terrestrial broadcasting for maximum audience, irrespective of bid offers. That is why massive contracts have been signed recently with NBC for American television rights until 2002 and, last week, with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) until 2008. The EBU deal, for \$1.44 billion (about £930 million) was a third less than that of The News Corporation, parent company of The Times.

The TCCB will say, unofficially, that while it prefers to be with BBC it welcomes satellite involvement because it pushes up the price. It also offers the opportunity for huge expansion financially and in the availability of air time.

Elstein suggests that membership of the "list" — if there is to be one — should be voluntary. Yet protection of the list could become irrelevant, with 70 per cent of viewers under 45 predicted to have satellite access by 2000. The excellence of BBC's sports broadcasts, and the lack of experience and knowledge of some commentators on satellite, is insufficient argument for permanently ring-fencing the BBC and special events.

## New chief executive required to run TCCB

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE most important professional post in English cricket falls vacant today, when Alan Smith will inform the chairman of the first-class counties that he is to stand down as chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). The job is to be advertised in *The Times* on Wednesday.

Smith will be 60 in October and it is understood he will technically remain in office until then. A successor is being sought with some urgency, however, and it is planned that he should work alongside Smith during the summer.

The timing of the announcement will surprise many. Although Smith had insisted privately to friends that he would retire this year, there was a cynical view — sponsored by his many detractors — that he would seek to cling to power through the formative years of his branchchild, the English Cricket Board, the tortuous formation of which should be completed within 12 months.

Smith, who captained Warwickshire and played for England as a wicketkeeper-batsman, occasionally diversifying into a curiously effective swing bowler, graduated to the top job in the game in 1987. Often pedantic, invariably misunderstood, he has nonetheless displayed vigilance, integrity and boundless energy during a sensitive and highly-charged era for the professional game. "I have had to operate within a system," he says in answer to criticism. "There are a number of things that have happened while I've been here that I have disagreed with, sometimes quite strongly, but I am not a dictator and I have had to bite my tongue."

Ironically, Smith's successor will inevitably be endowed with more executive powers within a somewhat streamlined system. The job brief, however, will remain much as before and the TCCB will rightly stipulate the priority of a cricketing background.

## Warne fears for safety in Sri Lanka

By JOHN GOODBODY

WITH Australian players warning that they will refuse to play in Sri Lanka because of fears of more bombings after the explosion in Colombo last week, the World Cup organisers will today consider moving the four matches on the island to India and Pakistan, co-hosts of the 12-nation tournament, which opens next Sunday.

As the pressure mounted on the authorities to call off the fixtures in Sri Lanka, where up to 80 people were killed and 1,200 injured in an attack by the Tamil Tigers last Wednesday, Shane Warne, the Australia spinner, said that the team "could be risking their lives for one game" if their fixture were to go ahead in Colombo on February 17. He added that

several team-mates shared his views.

The Australian Cricket Board will give its formal response today to the crisis while Pilcom, the three-country organising committee, is in a dilemma over the political problem. Jagmohan Dalmiya, the convenor of Pilcom, said: "It is a most difficult situation with which we are faced. It could have far-reaching implications."

However, he hinted that the committee was considering a switch of venues, although such a move would risk alienating the Sri Lankans, who would regard it as an insult. They have pointed out that the Tamil separatists have never targeted sports events in their struggle for independence.

Three centres in India — Hyderabad, Bangalore and

Bombay — have offered to host matches scheduled for Sri Lanka, while the Pakistan authorities said they were willing to take an additional game. Sri Lanka are scheduled to play three fixtures in Colombo, against Australia (February 17), Zimbabwe (February 21) and West Indies (February 25), and one in the hill resort of Kandy, against Kenya on March 6. If the organisers do not move the games from Sri Lanka, it is possible that some of the visiting countries may forfeit the games on the island.

Australia could be the first. "I do not really want to go to Sri Lanka," Warne said yesterday. "Imagine if you were in Sri Lanka at the moment playing in the World Cup and you were walking down the streets to have a look at the

shops and there is a drive-by bombing. Okay, it is fair enough from their point of view to think they cannot give in to terrorism, but we have to play cricket in the country and, for this one game in Sri Lanka, it is worth risking our lives."

There has been particular tension in the Australian camp because there was a telephone bomb hoax against Craig McDermott last Friday. This followed an acrimonious tour by Sri Lanka in which they were accusations of ball tampering and the no-balling of Muttiah Muralitharan, their leading wicket-taker, in two matches by Australian umpires.

Meanwhile, the England team have arrived in Lahore to prepare for their first game against New Zealand in the

Indian city of Ahmadabad on February 14. Ray Illingworth, the team manager, said that he thought Graeme Hick could be "the outstanding player of the tournament".

"I have told him so because I believe that he [Hick] is batting better than ever before," Illingworth said. "Graeme was moving a little bit leaden-footed early in his career. However, he moves much better now and gets up on to the balls of his feet."

Illingworth said that Hick had benefited from the advice of John Edrich. "The time he has spent with John has helped a lot. One of the things that John got him doing during their sessions together was skipping, because that encourages good movement and Graeme has carried on with it."

## Southgate profit from mistakes by title rivals

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

TEDDINGTON staged a fine recovery to draw 2-2 at home with Reading in the National League yesterday when the hockey season resumed with a full programme after the winter break.

Reading, the sharper side, led 2-0 with a goal by Ashdown late in the first half and another by Osborn from a short corner early in the second period. Teddington were then kept in the game by French, their goalkeeper, whose excursions to the top of the circle checked the flow of Reading's attacks.

Between Conway and Billson, Teddington's fortunes were restored. Conway laid on the chance for Billson to score in the 45th minute and Conway, himself, obtained the equaliser from a short corner 12 minutes later. Further saves by French rescued Teddington.

A goal two minutes before the end by Billson enabled Guildford to draw 3-3 with Cannock, who at one time were leading 3-0 with goals by Crutchley, Hughes-Rowlands and Chris Mayer. Markham, from a short corner, and Don Williams brought Guildford

back into the game before Bilsland snatched their late equaliser.

Old Loughatonians were beaten 3-2 at Sainthill by East Grinstead, for whom Barnes scored the winning goal seven minutes from time with a penalty stroke. Bill Williams and Lee had earlier scored for Old Loughatonians, with Byfield and Head replying for East Grinstead.

With Reading, Cannock and Old Loughatonians all dropping points, Southgate now lead the first division after their 6-0 victory at Bourneville on Saturday. Gisborne scored two of Southgate's goals from penalty strokes.

Calum Giles converted two short corners for Havant in their 7-1 home win over Indian Gymkhana, with Havant's other goals coming from Pattinson (2), Nail, Glover and Cross. Molly scored four times for Surbiton, one from a short corner, in the 9-0 defeat of St Albans.

The position at the top of the second division is unchanged after Beeston's 2-1 victory over Sheffield. Huckle scored twice for Beeston and Woolfrey replied for Sheffield.

## Women happy to abandon the gentle touch

Patricia Davies spends an afternoon at the mangle as the women rugby players of Wales are taken to the cleaners

We all have days like this: starting off full of hope and ending up mangled. At Welford Road, the home of Leicester, yesterday, Wales' women rugby players continued their losing streak against England, steamrollered into the mud, 56-3.

Wales were plucky. Near the end of the match, someone called for them to "back up", a quaintly old-fashioned request, one you suspected the visitors' combative No 7 would not have appreciated. She was spoken to by the referee after a swipe at an opponent early on — there had been an elegant bit of lifting by England in the lineout, mind — and late on she had been given a severe talking-to after some shenanigans in one of those forward mêlées civilians like me will never understand.

In any case, by then my attention had started to wander. My feet and hands were icing up and the match was too one-sided to be enjoyable as a contest. Not that England or their supporters minded — the strains of *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* were heard before the game even started and 1,205 hardly souls took a spirited interest in the proceedings. There were plenty of

stewards on duty, looking rather under-employed because there was plenty of room for everybody and nobody felt inclined to streak on such a chilly afternoon.

This being a proper international, the teams lined up for the two anthems and sang as lustily as they were to play on a pitch one of the photographers described as being "like glue". Since he and his colleagues had to crawl up and down the touchline in it, he was not a neutral observer. The Wales players did not seem to run out of puff, however, even though it was 41-0 before they scored their only points — a dropped goal from Amanda Bennett, their chunky stand-off half from Saracens.

Just before that England had elected to kick a penalty, which I found a trifle baffling since they were 38-0 up and in no danger of losing their 100 per cent record against Wales, extending now to 11 internationals. Then I realised why — it was to allow Gill Burns, of Waterloo, the captain and No 8, to show off her kicking technique from wide out on

the right. She converted and the desultory chant of "Boring, boring rubbish" was replaced by appreciative cheers.

Burns, 31, is a school teacher, measuring 5ft 11in, weighing 12st 7lb (there is no modesty in a rugby programme) and Wales, whose No 8 was 5ft 4in, could not hold her. She scored the first of her team's eight tries, rolling out of a tackle and then powering over the line in jubilation.

"Just like Deano," said a Leicester man used to the

exploits of Dean Richards. Well, maybe a little faster.

Just before the try, there had been a lineout and I am sure the codeword was "elephant". Then, there had been a mix-up between the Wales full back and right wing, who went for the same high ball. The full back was furious. "I called," she spat. Well, I did not hear her either. I have to confess I had called her a "twit" for not calling. Shows how wrong you can be from the sidelines.

There was plenty of that

esoteric rummaging about and crunching tackles that made me realise I was too old and too timid to take up the game but there was lots of handling, too, some of it decidedly slick. However, Wales, whose coach, Paul Ringer, looked on philosophically, tended to drop the ball at crucial moments and England would pick it up and charge off to notch up yet another try. There was nearly a charge-down reminiscent of the one at Twickenham the previous day and England made several interceptions: if my fingers had not seized up I might have made a legible note of how many had led to tries.

I have seen many men's club matches a lot less skillful and the spectators, a mix of young and old, male and female, were quick to applaud the passing moves the men's teams are often afraid to try in these win-at-all-costs days. "I like their shirts better than the men's as well," commented one England supporter, obviously of the old, unadorned school.

It was well worth the detour — even the beefburger, bought out of duty, was excellent, though the hot todies had to wait until after the drive home.

WHAT IT COSTS	
Admission	£2.10
Free parking	£2.10
Programme	£2.10
Food	£2.10
Transport	£2.10
Accommodation	£2.10
Travel	£2.10
Other	£2.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>£14.10</b>

محمان النحل



## France flop at Murrayfield as underdogs have their day to head championship table

## Scotland's bravado reaps rich reward

Scotland ..... 19  
France ..... 14

By MARK SOUSTER

SCOTLAND will head for Cardiff in a fortnight's time the only unbeaten team in the five nations' championship. The dramatic manner of their victory over France on Saturday at Murrayfield will see them start favourites to beat Wales and leave them scenting the possibility, when they meet England next month, of a first grand slam since 1990 — a highly satisfying position for a team dismissed as "potentially hopeless" only three weeks ago.

The Scots were emphatic



CHAMPIONSHIP

winners over a pedestrian French side, one clearly shaken by the vibrancy of Scotland's performance. Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach, paid his hosts the ultimate compliment after the match — Scotland, he said, had played the kind of rugby that France aspired to.

The performance was not flawless — there are still question marks about Michael Dods's reliability as a kicker, while the inability to convert pressure into points remains a concern — but it would be churlish to be negative when there was so much to enjoy. Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, who admitted to being more nervous than he had ever been before an international, said: "It is an incredible feeling. The gratifying

thing is we put into practice what we try on the training ground and credit must go to Richie Dixon and David Johnston, the coaches, for all the hard work they put in."

Jim Telfer, the Scotland manager, was anxious to keep things in perspective. "I think we let them off the hook a little bit. It was not completely fulfilling. We were trying to entertain rather than play a balanced game. We should have calmed the game down a bit in places, but if you don't take chances, you don't win anything."

At the heart of it all was another inspiring display by the Scottish pack, which, while half a stone lighter per man than their opponents, was light years ahead in speed of thought and movement. Repeatedly, the Scots reached the breakdown in numbers, tackled ferociously and drove the French back around the fringes. When France tried to expand, the Scottish cover defence was exemplary.

The French front row was anonymous, Merle and Roumat lumbering and the back row, even Benazzi, obliterated. There must be a huge question mark about their overall fitness: it was sad to see Cabannes barely bother to chase back as he and Dods followed an exquisite chip, delivered with the inside of his right foot, by Bryan Redpath, which resulted in Scotland's first try after eight minutes.

That score was no more than Scotland deserved after a blistering start that rocked the French on their heels and epitomised the Scots' spirit of adventure, with Shepherd, who had a splendid match, leading the charge impressively from full back. When Merle, who was later to receive a yellow card for stamping, stopped him with a throat-high tackle, Clayton Thomas, the referee, allowed more than a minute's advantage, time in which Scotland scored, but only after the full



Shepherd sways away from Benazzi's tackle and prepares to test Carbonneau as Scotland go on the offensive against France on Saturday. Photograph: Martin Cleaver

## Wainwright accepts surrender recalling shades of Waterloo

MICHAEL  
HENDERSON  
At Murrayfield

Wellington was not joking when he made his crack about the playing fields of Eton. "If you want to interest a Frenchman in a game," it has been said, "tell him it's a game." The French, a capricious lot themselves, have never been entirely comfortable with gifted mavericks from these isles. On Saturday they flew the flag of surrender once more and the score had a historic ring to it. 1914, although 1815 would have done just as nicely.

France went to Murrayfield scotching blood; instead they shed their own. That breaking of the dam against England two weeks ago counted for naught as Scotland tore into a team of obvious talent and little resolve. After paying full tribute to Scotland, and one must for theirs was a considerable performance, this was nevertheless a shocking, almost spineless display by the French.

Just when it seemed they had assembled a team that rugby followers of every hue could celebrate, and it is fair to say everybody loves them when "they play as only they can", France revealed the obverse side of their nature. They submitted. It all brought to mind the joke about why



MICHAEL  
HENDERSON  
At Murrayfield

trees line the Champs Elysees — "next time the Germans can march in the shade".

This France team was tree-like but made of willow rather than oak. The Scottish wind plied them double for 80 of the most exhilarating minutes this ground has seen in recent seasons. People could not quite believe what they were seeing. France outplayed by Scotland, so much so that Jim Telfer suggested afterwards with a note of regret that "we let them off the hook a little bit". Not really: the hook was baited well enough.

Tallest among the Scottish oaks stood Rob Wainwright, flanker and captain of indomitable spirit. When Gavin Hastings retired, the talk was not of replacing him as captain but of "succeeding". Hastings' boots, it was assumed, were too big. Wainwright, practical chap, has tried them on and found they fit him rather well. He gathered his players round him and they responded as young men can, but seldom do. Like many other Anglo-

Scots, Wainwright has one of those refined speaking voices that send Scots from the west of the country running for cover. With his strangled vowels, Wainwright could be the chap finally to replace (whoop!) the much-missed Kenneth Williams on that wireless favourite, *Just A Minute*. Indeed, as he is an Army doctor, he can say, as Williams once did, "oo-oh, mmm!"

Wainwright confessed to the blistering way his team began it. That opening surge was clearly a release of stored-up nervous energy, as if vessel-bound seamen had suddenly been sent ashore. It was intoxicating stuff and the confident ball-handling and support play made England's talk of an "expansive" game — which means what, widening the pitch? — sadly hollow.

"If you go through the team," Wainwright said, "you will find they all played like

heroes." Nowhere more than at full back, where Rowen Shepherd, of Melrose, came of age, and on the wing, where Michael Dods claimed both tries, the second after a bit of a juggle, and all 19 points. The contrast with France's three musketeers was pointed. Sadoorny, Namack and Saint-Andre left their sabres sheathed.

Scotland's ability to replenish their stock of players from within a small pool is little short of astonishing. They were thought to be treading water but are now halfway to a grand slam. Wainwright and Telfer will not need to remind the players that the more difficult half lies ahead because England, for all their shortcomings, will not lie down as feebly as the French. Men in kilts are already hooting "bring on the English" and Murrayfield's magnificent stadium should witness a mighty struggle on March 2. The small-minded attitudes regarding England are still present in these parts and they will not have got much bigger in a month's time, particularly if Scotland have swept Wales out of the way by then.

In the meantime the message from Scotland to this five nations' championship is clear: get your tanks off our madden.



Dods celebrates his try at Murrayfield yesterday even as he falls to the ground

## Hammond fades at testing time

ROGER HAMMOND, occupied with university examinations during January, knows he can do better — and must do — if he is again to be a world champion at cyclo-cross (Peter Bryan writes).

For the opening half-hour of the world under-23 event on the eastern outskirts of Paris on Saturday, Hammond, in his final year at Brunel, gave every hope of repeating his 1992 success, when he won the junior title. He was one of half a dozen early leaders on the muddy circuit, beneath which ice threatened the unwary, and he had the power and confidence to do his share at the front.

As the 21km race went into the closing stages, however, Hammond's body drained of strength and he appeared to be going backwards as riders quickly came from behind to overhaul him.

Miguel Martinez, of France, riding a mountain bike, seized his chance to snatch victory in 46min 57sec, with Hammond trailing in — still the best Briton — nineteenth and 1min 18sec behind the new champion.

The Five Cities track league series at the National Cycling Centre ended in victory for Manchester, with a 13-point lead over London and 20 points over Edinburgh.

## Kwik way for cricket to catch them young

By JOHN GOODBODY

CRICKET is not the easiest sport to introduce to youngsters. The traditional game demands time and patience and a high level of skill, something that small children do not usually possess. They like action and non-stop involvement compressed into short periods of the primary school day.

The London Schools' Cricket Project has met these difficulties head-on. Desperately keen that more youngsters should be introduced to the sport, it sent coaches to 811 primary schools between 1990 and 1995 to give concentrated instruction and supervision of Kwik cricket. In this academic year alone, it is hoping to visit 622 schools in the capital.

The William Davies School in Forest Gate, East London did not have the most cheerful of January afternoons last week to introduce youngsters to England's traditional summer game. The sun may have been shining but a sharp wind cut across the playground. With 30 pupils eager for exercise, it did not seem to be a suitable day for refining individual technique.

Yet, what was remarkable was the amount of individual tuition that was possible by one coach, while still keeping the interest of the rest of the class. During bowling practice, the youngsters would deliver their balls and then

run across the tarmac to swap places with their partners. In this way, not only did they keep warm but they also got more exercise.

Vic Griffith, the coach, said: "I always try to get their attention, to get them to focus on me and, while they are in the cold, to get them to move up and down. They should have as much enjoyment and exercise as possible."

At this co-educational school, he is preaching, if not always to the converted, at least to the interested. Ninety-five per cent of the 250 pupils come from the ethnic minorities, particularly the sub-continent.



Gill Gordon, the head teacher, said: "They know far more about cricketers than footballers and their fathers will often play cricket with them on the park. They support England

against Australia or the West Indies, but when England are playing India or Pakistan, where they are."

She has always welcomed the Project's suggestion to send in a coach for five sessions a year. "Cricket teaches teamwork and the discipline of learning a game, with its rules and need for fairness."

The Project has a budget of about £100,000 for this year to help to pay for two full-time and ten part-time coaches to tour the London schools. This total includes £5,000 from Tesco — the supermarket chain — plus a further £5,000

from the Government's Sportsmatch scheme.

This particular sponsorship encourages youngsters to attend more advanced free coaching clinics in their boroughs, after their initial "taster" courses in their individual schools. The rest of the funds come from MCC, county clubs, charitable and cricket trusts and donations from the schools.

Oliver McClintock, the deputy co-ordinator of the Project, says: "If just one child from each school wants to play cricket at recreational level as an adult, we will have 600 children going into the game every year. However, we are not only creating the players of the future. We are also creating the parents and paying public of the future."

Haydn Davies, vice-chairman of the Essex Schools Cricket Association, added: "The main idea is to get children involved with bat and ball, so they will at least try the game out at secondary school."

The hour-long session ended with 25 minutes of Kwik cricket, which allows everyone to have a go, either hitting Griffiths' deliveries across the playground to everyone's delight or missing the ball.

One pupil, Bilal Hassan, 9, said: "I like whacking the ball a long way." He was bowled by one ball, that may have turned on the tarmac. "The ball went wonky," he said.



Pupils at William Davies School get in the swing of a playground Kwik cricket game

## Williams ends long wait for Welsh win

By PHIL YATES

MARK WILLIAMS benefited from one of the worst performances of John Parrott's career to win the Regal Welsh Open snooker tournament in Newport on Saturday and so become the first Welshman to capture a world-ranking title for seven years.

Not since the 1989 world championship final, when Parrott collapsed to an 18-3 defeat against Steve Davis, has he played as poorly on an important occasion. Williams, without being anywhere near his best, was never pressed.

In these days, when consistent break-building is a prerequisite for success at the highest level, it is hard to believe that Williams failed to compile a half-century break in the quarter-finals and put together only three during the semi-finals and final.

While his positional play left much to be desired, Williams could not be faulted when it came to the accuracy of his long potting.

Parrott, a warm pre-match favourite to win his second tournament of the season, after his triumph at the Thailand Classic in October, committed a string of unforced errors in the early stages and found himself trailing 5-2 after the first session.

Williams, who had stolen two frames on the pink and

another on the black during the afternoon, must have expected Parrott to mount a fightback on the resumption but the 1991 world and United Kingdom champion continued to struggle.

A run of 60 from Williams, the highest break of the contest, put him 7-2 ahead and Parrott's fate was effectively sealed when he missed a straightforward red after a run of 46 in the tenth frame to allow Williams in for a 52 clearance to the pink.

Williams, who collected a prize of £36,000, began the 1995-96 campaign in 39th place in the world rankings but is now twelfth on the provisional list.

Ian Doyle, head of the Team Sweater Shop management stable, to which the 20-year-old from Ebbw Vale belongs, confirmed yesterday that Williams will be awarded a place in the Regal Scottish Masters in September.

Matthew Stevens, 18, from Carmarthen, took advantage of his wild-card entry to the Benson and Hedges Masters by beating Terry Griffiths 5-3 yesterday at the Wembley Conference Centre to qualify for a match with Alan McManus.

RESULT: Parrott 0-5 Williams (Welsh) 5-2. Parrott (50) 8-3. Frame scores (Williams first): 61-50, 65-4, 5-121, 65-58, 62-43, 0-73, 24-26, 46-11, 75-2, 75-45, 45-71, 72-28.



# New England pioneers left stranded

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# Tottenham deny charge with persuasive defence



Sheringham: came near to breaking the deadlock

In the field of Derek Hutton and the late Bessie Braddock, sending your child to a politically incorrect school is less heinous than passing in the wrong team at Anfield. Tottenham Hotspur cleverly forced Liverpool to do this rather a lot during a tense goalless draw on Saturday.

Because Anfield is also an arena that eschews the premise that competitive sport is harmful to the development of character, dissatisfaction reached a crescendo after an hour when the home supporters were hooting at their team, never mind its second position in the FA Carling Premiership. Bill Shankly's absurd maxim — pre-Heysel — that the game is more important than life or death hung uncomfortably in the air.

Here, in fact, was a marvellously disputed match, in which the collective goalscoring abilities of Fowler and Collymore for Liverpool and Armstrong and Sheringham for Tottenham were continuously de-

nied. Frustrating, but still fascinating fun for all 90 minutes, during which there were 18 scoring chances or half-chances: 11 to Liverpool, seven to Tottenham.

The level of tactical intelligence by both teams and a simultaneous intensity of pressure on the individual in possession were extreme. Tottenham defended ruggedly, the veteran Mabbutt, in particular, smothering Fowler and Collymore through the middle and funneling back to force Jones, McAteer and McManaman on the flanks to go wide. Intercepted passes were an inevitability.

The frustration of the crowd was equally understandable. Victory over Aston Villa at Villa Park in midweek had fuelled speculation that Liverpool might somehow overhaul Newcastle United in the coming weeks, so that to slip back to third place was a severe anticlimax. Yet there was no discredit. Tottenham, with the more dangerous moments, might have won. The

man of the match, if not Mabbutt, was Armstrong.

If there was a criticism of Liverpool it was that Barnes and Thomas, in the centre of a midfield line of five, occasionally seemed weary; that the final pass around the edge of the Tottenham penalty area was occasionally mislaid; and that McManaman, so exciting on the run, and McAteer finished inaccurately. Such is the cost of competent opposition, though McManaman's lack of firepower may have disappointed the watching Terry Venables. England urgently need a midfield goalscorer to replace Platt.

## David Miller sees Liverpool's goalscoring edge blunted by a display of tactical mastery

As for Stephen Lodge, the Barnsley referee, he ran bravely up and down the centre of the field attempting to keep pace with the shuttlecock play, and repeatedly managed to obstruct the line of passing movement. Here was a definitive illustration of the need in the modern game for a two-referee system to reduce the physical burden and double refereeing vision.

The first glaring opening fell to Tottenham after a quarter of an hour. At the other end, Walker had just saved low and comfortably from Collymore. Now Fox put Armstrong away on the right, and his early low cross flashed in front of James Babb having both arms locked around

feet first and failed to make contact by only inches.

Shortly before half-time, Tottenham might again have taken the lead. Campbell, a few yards outside the penalty area, fed a sharp pass to Armstrong, who swivelled to take the ball round the advancing James. The ball ran clear but the spin from a deflection off James carried the ball too far left and an open goal went begging.

Once more Liverpool had cause to breathe thankfully eight minutes into the second half. Sinton's curling, lofted cross was powerfully met by Armstrong no more than four yards out. A 40,000 crowd was looking for the ball in the back of the net before they realised that James had made the most spectacular of reflex saves.

Now Liverpool began to wind up the pressure — and the frustration. They crowded around Tottenham's penalty area but could find no way through. A sizzling drive from 27 yards by Collymore caused Walker

to blink as he instinctively parried the shot. McManaman, breaking free on the left, shot weakly.

With two minutes remaining, Tottenham again held victory in their hand. Armstrong's run on the left had McAteer and Wright trailing; he cut inside, let rip right-footed and James did well to turn the shot away for a corner. In the last gasp, consecutive shots by McAteer were held by Walker and flew wide of the far post.

Tottenham's performance confirmed the quality established by their manager, Gerry Francis, though they continue to miss the influence of Anderton. The title may be out of reach for Liverpool, but some opponents, unlike Tottenham, can expect to be destroyed.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D. James — J. Barnes, M. Wright, P. Babb — J. McAteer, M. Thomas, S. McManaman, R. Jones (sub: I. Fiacco, 60min), Fowler, S. Collymore.  
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I. Walker — D. Austin, G. Mabbutt, C. Gossard, J. Ledwith — R. Fox, S. Campbell (sub: S. Hetherford, 75), C. Wilson, A. Sinton — C. Armstrong, E. Sheringham.  
Referee: S. Lodge

## Manager's analysis short on knowledge of English

Southampton ..... 2  
Everton ..... 2

By IVO TENNANT

FOOTBALL managers, like cricket coaches, do not need to have made a name for themselves as players. Roy Evans was given a handful of first team appearances by Liverpool and yet gains the respect that is his due. Dave Merrington's playing career belongs in the appendix to some out-of-print almanac.

Here, though, was a man whom Alan Ball, a front-rank footballer, thought able enough to become his assistant at Southampton. When a successor was required in the summer, Lawrie McMenemy told the club's directors that Merrington was their man and their manager. He could hardly have had more emphatic commendations than that.

The enthusiasm that this palpably straightforward man brings to management has been heightened by the fact that his opportunity has come well into his middle years. Before Ball departed, he was little known. Now, at the end of one of his post-match pronouncements, it is impossible not to comprehend what he represents.

Merrington talks of his players needing to pull their pistols out of their holsters, and of the game having to pay for Margaret Thatcher's belief that

Full results and league tables ..... 28

an individual has to look after himself. His giddy discourse continued as he lauded Southampton's players for their performance. This was, he said, "A typically English game of end-to-end football."

Indeed it was. It was a match full of technical errors, misplaced passes, balls thumped upfield and an inability to beat offside traps, all masked by four goals in the second half and performances by Le Tissier and Kanchelskis that set them apart.

In England, a match strewn with mistakes is perceived as thrilling if it finishes as a draw with four goals scored in a frenzied climax. Southampton's equaliser, Magilton volleying past Southall, was seemingly a cracker. Yet the ball reached him through the kind of misplaced header that would be scoffed at on the Continent.

It was all too physical, too frenetic, too English. None of this particularly disconcerted Le Tissier, whom Merrington feels is enjoying his football again, or Kanchelskis. "A classic counter-puncher in the modern game," as Joe Royle, his manager, called him. The way in which he laid on Everton's goals for Stuart and Horne justified the description. That was not always the case with every summation on Saturday.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-5-1): D. Brassant — J. Dodd, R. Hall, K. Morkov, S. Channon — M. Le Tissier, B. Vernon, J. Magilton, G. Watson, M. Walters (sub: M. Oakley, 60min) — N. Shopshire.  
EVERTON (4-5-1): N. Southall — M. Johnson, C. Sharp, D. Watson, A. Hinchcliffe — A. Kanchelskis, B. Horne, J. Pugh, G. Stewart, A. Lomax (sub: P. Hendrie, 75), D. Ferguson.  
Referee: D. Hokey

# Clough refreshed after Pontins break

Simon Barnes on Manchester City's 2-0 win against relegation rivals

How would Liverpool reserves go in the FA Carling Premiership? You would have to fancy their chances of avoiding relegation at the very least — certainly more than Queens Park Rangers and, perhaps, more than Manchester City. There is a huge amount of talent, as well as money, playing regularly in the Pontins League.

It is the same with all the big clubs. While journeymen battle for Premiership survival with the lesser clubs as they visit the big stages of Anfield and Old Trafford, various sublime talents costing millions purvey their out-of-favour skills in secret. It is our loss.

So it was with Nigel Clough, once considered the connoisseur's footballer, once the player on whom Liverpool and England would build their future. Some 2½ years back, he cost £2.3 million to move from his father's former club, Nottingham Forest, to Liverpool. A man apparently custom-made to fulfill the long Liverpool tradition of quiet excellence. Yet he fell out of favour with a change of management. He became Pontins Man.

The situation, hardly unique, is created by the lack of parity of competition in the Premiership. Big clubs don't let their big assets go easily, there being big money tied up in them. And, sometimes, they just do not want to have them playing for rivals. Keeping a good player Pontins-bound can be a sound tactical move in the increasingly loony world of the top half-dozen clubs.

And so we have been deprived of our connoisseur's player, deprived of all those neat touches and thoughtful passes. A cerebral player, Clough. But he has been rescued by Alan Ball and Manchester City, who paid £1 million for him, while Clough took a painful cut from his reported £5,000-a-week Liverpool wages.

At least he is playing Premiership football again, and we are watching him do it. More than two years at Liverpool and only 38 league appearances. Football talent is a



Clough, back in the spotlight after his move to Manchester City, scores on his home debut against Queens Park Rangers. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

precious thing because it lasts for so short a time — say, ten years. Clough has just wasted 20 per cent of his footballing life and he is now 29.

The move is a part of Ball's top-to-bottom reshaping of City. In less than a season, there have been 22 comings and goings at the club. He has signed seven players for a total of £7 million, getting £2 million back on sales. All this while Liverpool spent £8.5 million on a single player.

For the relegation six-pointer against Rangers on Saturday, City had three players making a home debut as starters: Clough, the German

international left back, Frontzeck, and a teenage winger, Martin Phillips.

And there was Clough, looking, as ever, like an actor in an unaccustomed shorts rather than a professional footballer. Speed of thought and deftness of touch have always been his assets: his lack of speed over the ground is almost as famous as his father's personality.

Not one of life's rebels, Clough, son of a tumultuous and overwhelming papa, he chose to follow his father's profession as his father's club. Clough père tells a story about an opposing park-team player who threw a cup of tea over his

free header from a dozen yards; you are not supposed to score from them. Symons got fair contact on the ball and Rangers just watched it go in. They have a doomed look about them.

Not so City. While this is still a team in which the parts are greater than the sum, there were plenty of good things to enjoy — this, despite a ludicrous, scene-stealing performance from the referee, who made 11 bookings, two for poor Dichio, the Rangers substitute, who had to go. Frontzeck is a fearsome as well as a footballing defender; the Georgian, Kinkladze, is a

one-man revival of the term "to dribble" and as for that teenage winger — well, what a debut. He is 19; he was young and infallible and altogether immortal for an afternoon. If he trains on, he will be quite a player. I wonder how much City will sell him for.

Watch out for the Pontins Trap, young fellow.  
MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-1-1): E. Ingham — N. Burrows, N. Symons, K. Curle, B. Prosser — M. Phillips, G. Pritchard, G. Kinkladze, S. Lomas (sub: G. Cranney, 80min) — N. Clough — J. Pether (sub: Brightwell, 82).  
QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-3-1-2): J. Somner — S. Taylor, A. McDonald, D. Mendes, T. Chaffin — S. Barker, N. Quashie (sub: M. Brazier, 75), I. Holloway, M. Sinclair — M. Hindey (sub: D. Dichio, 65), S. Allen (sub: K. Gullen, 65).  
Referee: G. Poll

## Shearer plays to strengths

Blackburn Rovers ..... 3  
Bolton Wanderers ..... 1

By MARK HODKINSON

A FOOTBALLER'S strength cannot be quantified. It is not about the hardest shot or quickest feet, but the barely discernible traits such as knee and thigh in emphatic harmony or a midriff that expands to nurse a high ball past a defender.

Alan Shearer is the modern embodiment of this covert but imperial strength. Bolton Wanderers played a triad of centre backs on Saturday at Ewood Park but Shearer defied their honest brawn three times, often using their leaden muscle as a spiral staircase when it suited his needs.

Blackburn Rovers' largest crowd of the season lent its unequivocal support to a rare episode in the life of the FA Carling Premiership — a Lancashire derby aside from the biannual conflict of the Manchester, City and United.

The Bolton supporters, a braying, seething assembly in the Darwin End, wanted the victory, probably more so than their team. Bolton might be going down, but their supporters covet the right to a parochial sneer.

Thankfully, intelligent and resolute football won out over dogged endeavour. Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, conceded that his team had been edgy in the first half, a condition probably brought on by Bolton's pugnacious approach.

Shearer's opening goal was a mere tap-in after some intricate passing. Blackburn crafted chances but found Branagan and a crossbar in collusion against them. On their first substantive attack, nearly 30 minutes in, Bolton scored. Curcio crossed from the right and Green headed past Flowers.

With seven minutes remaining and Blackburn supporters

bemoaning the injustice of it all, Branagan groped at a corner and Shearer rammed the ball home. The scoreline was made to mirror the play when Shearer, although marked by three players, headed a sublime cross from Sherwood past Branagan.

Shearer's only error of judgment was to have some fun with a linesman. The referee, Paul Alcock, raced 20 yards to book Shearer for mimicking the official. "The linesman was licking his lips, so I thought I'd lick mine. The linesman was laughing with me. The referee obviously doesn't understand jokes," Shearer said.

Harford and Shearer concluded that the enforced break caused last week by the icy weather had done the trick: the world of good. If Shearer is permitted a few weeks of rest between the end of the English domestic season and the start of the European championship this summer, a nation of football lovers might well be licking his lips, too.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-3): T. Flowers — B. Berg, C. Hendrie, G. Gossard, J. Armitage — J. Gushier, T. Sherwood, T. Lomas — S. Reay (sub: W. McCrory, 60min), A. Shearer, M. Weather.  
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-3-3): K. Branagan — J. Phillips, C. Farrington (sub: D. Loe, 55), G. Sheehan, S. Buxton, S. Dew — S. Curcio, S. Sellers, R. Sheehy — J. McCarthy (sub: M. Bore, 37), M. Paulsen.  
Referee: P. Alcock

## Arsenal reveal soft centre

Arsenal ..... 1  
Coventry City ..... 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

IT WOULD be stretching a point to compare Arsenal without Adams, Bould and Keown to Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark: more like Macbeth without the three witches. But in the absence of those Highbury totems, the home team lacked their usual authority. Even Ian Wright was less than his normal predatory self, failing in several confrontations with Ogrizovic, the Coventry goalkeeper, including one from the penalty spot.

The visitors also missed chances in a game not lacking in entertainment. However, for all the attacking promise of Whelan and Dublin, and the cajoling, encouraging and organising influence in midfield of Gordon Strachan, their defence, the most generous in the FA Carling Premiership, nearly proved their undoing again.

The uncertainty of Arsenal was exposed from the kick-off. "We might have been three up before they realised we were playing," was how Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager,

viewed the opening exchanges. Indeed, the centre of Arsenal's defence seemed to dissolve on contact with anything sky-blue. Seaman was called on to save spectacularly from Shaw and Whelan, and Dixon cleared Whelan's header from under his own crossbar — all in the first four minutes. When Jensen sent Wright ahead when he put Arsenal ahead when he was brought down after 51 minutes but his penalty was too central and Ogrizovic was there to meet it, as he was when Wright shot low after Merson gave his acting captain another clear run on goal. Both teams went for victory; at one point six Coventry players were stranded upfield as Arsenal broke, but neither goalkeeper deserved to finish on a losing side.

"The scoreline could have been anything," Atkinson said, singling out his two most senior players. "We keep showing Gordon Strachan clips of Stanley Matthews. Ogrizovic made good saves. He's part of our youth policy — he's only about 38."

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D. Seaman — L. Dixon, S. Whelan, A. Linighan, N. Whelahan — A. Charles, J. Jensen (sub: S. Hughes, 60min), Merson, G. Helder — D. Bergstrom, I. Wright.  
COVENTRY CITY (4-3-3): S. Ogrizovic — B. Burrows, D. Baines, R. Shaw, M. Hall — G. Strachan (sub: P. McIlroy, 75), K. Richardson, P. Taylor, J. Salako — N. Whelan, D. Dixon.  
Referee: S. Dunn

Wright missed penalty

## West Ham find an attractive route to safety

West Ham United ..... 1  
Nottingham Forest ..... 0

By ALYSON RUDD

WHEN Kris Akabusi, at the launch of a £20 million campaign to promote London as a tourist attraction, said the capital could boast theatres, restaurants and football clubs, the best being West Ham United, the organisers must have groaned at the thought of Japanese tourists shuffling towards Upton Park searching in vain for Gary Lineker and gazing in horror at the grubby high street before catching the first flight to Paris.

A week ago, when the air at Upton Park reeked of relegation, their concern would have been justified. Now it wafts around like copious amounts of perfume. West Ham have signed, on loan from Sporting Lisbon, Dani, the most good-looking footballer in the world.

As he moved away from the substitutes' bench to begin warming up on Saturday, women teetered on dopes straining to catch a glimpse of the exceptionally pretty 19-year-old Portuguese international. He only played for eight minutes, but quickly acknowledged his role as a tourist attraction by attempting to chip the goalkeeper from the halfway line.

This was probably not what Sporting Lisbon had in mind when they sent Dani to London to gain some maturity. Poor performance by the Portuguese club had put pressure on Dani to keep on saving the day, pressure he found difficult to handle.

Fortunately for Dani, West Ham have suddenly embraced glamour and will not rely too heavily on him. They have also signed Slaven Bilic, the outstanding Croatia defender, and Iliu Dumitrescu, the underrated Romania forward.

It was Williamson, 22, a product of the youth policy, who dominated this game. Playing unusually in his favoured central role, he tore Nottingham Forest apart. It was his pass that induced the error from Cooper that allowed Slater to score the decisive goal.

West Ham no longer look like relegation fodder, although the real test will come over the next fortnight when they play two London derbies away from home and then Newcastle United.

One other tourist attraction at Upton Park, their Super Screen System, is the most unintentionally entertaining of its type. "Player injured" its graphic screamed when all 22 were happy on their feet. "We are not worthy" a bowling Pinocchio cartoon informed us when the ball rolled unimpressively out of play for a throw-in. However, if West Ham maintain their momentum there will be plenty of sides discovering, as Forest did, that they are indeed not worthy.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L. McCloskey — M. Brown, M. Pappas, R. Potts, J. Dicks — R. Slater (sub: A. Whitbread, 60min), D. Williamson, I. Bishop, M. Hughes — D. A. Connor.  
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-3-3): M. Crossley — D. Lytle, G. Cooper, S. Christie, D. Phelps — S. Gerrard (sub: A. Hirstland, 70), G. Bar-Williams, I. Walsh — A. Skirrow, B. Roy — K. Campbell.  
Referee: K. Burge



# Flying Frenchman makes a triumphant touchdown on his return to Selhurst Park

## Cantona savouring lull after the storm

Wimbledon ..... 2  
Manchester United ..... 4

By ROSE HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE calm after the Selhurst Park storm of one year ago came to Eric Cantona on Saturday. There was evil about in the background, but Cantona had no part in it. He scored twice, he put himself at the service of his team, he roamed to find space, he tackled back, he lent his height to his defence, and throughout the afternoon the word best suited to his performance was composure.

Alex Ferguson, his manager, dismissed all talk of Cantona's return as trivial but Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager beleaguered by a list of absentees running into double figures, was more effusive. "Cantona? He's got everything that's great about a player. He drifts in, ghosts in and out, making it almost impossible

South Africa triumph — 29  
High-flying Stevenage — 29

to do anything about him. Some say he's a lesser player since he's come back, but I can't see that."

Perhaps, after all, the uniform dictates the mood. When Cantona lost self-control and assaulted an abusive spectator, he wore that dreadful black kit. This time he was in the proper colour, a veritable pinstriped in red, the player handed the captain's armband when Steve Bruce had to go off to have 14 stitches inserted in his gashed forehead, the result of meeting the elbow of Dean Holdsworth. But that only emphasised that United are such a big club compared to the remarkable family affair that is Wimbledon.

Wimbledon have had seven senior players under the surgeon's knife this season. Though they were angels on the field against United, they have previously compounded this loss with suspensions to Earle, Ekeolu and Harford. A lesser team, a club of lesser spirit, would have folded even

more easily under a United team that regained second place in the FA Cup Premier League with this victory. United have won on five out of their past six visits to this inaccessible south London club. The victory seemed assured in the four minutes before half-time when Cole, still seeming a misfit on a wavelength different from his colleagues, rose to head the first goal from Irwin's cross, and then Perry, the Wimbledon defender, added an own goal.

That description is harsh on Perry. First, the goal should be claimed by Beckham, whose tremendous free kick defeated Sullivan, the goalkeeper, crashed down from the crossbar, and appeared to cross the line. When it rebounded, Perry did indeed head it back into his own net but the force used in his back by Keane should have made his resultant misfortune irrelevant.

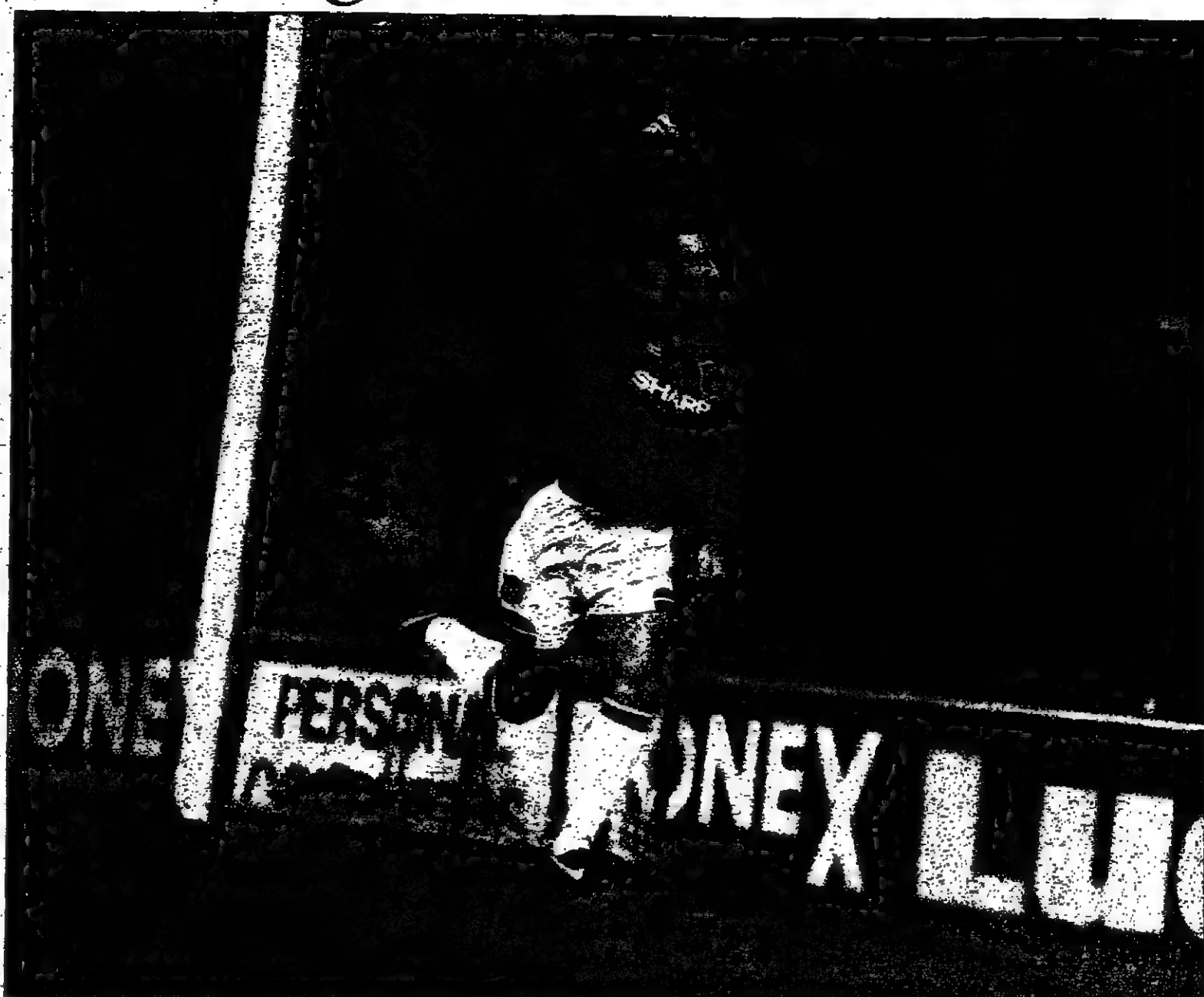
Kinnear admitted that his Wimbledon was a strangely submissive one before half-time. Once he had hectoring them about their natural principles, the up-and-at-em esprit de corps, they came out running, redefined as a 4-2-4 attacking unit.

Initially, it seemed, United could repel them at their ease, particularly with Gary Neville, the England right back, proving such a perceptive reader of the game at centre back.

Complacency crept in, however, and perseverance from Wimbledon was rewarded when Clarke chased a lost ball, Kimble put it back into the United goalmouth and Gayle slid in to half-volley the ball past Schmeichel.

Then came Cantona's denouement. Three minutes after Wimbledon's goal he engineered and scored with a level of class that will live in the memory. He and Beckham exchanged passes up the right that were beyond the scope of Wimbledon, passes that ultimately led to a headed goal as Cantona scooped to meet the ball, ignoring the raised boot of Perry.

Behind the goal, where the majority of the 15,000 United supporters in an attendance of



Cantona acknowledges the acclaim of his admirers at Selhurst Park after scoring his first goal against Wimbledon. Photograph: Marc Aspland

25,380, were ecstatic, the police reacted as if in fear that the dreaded London supporter who had caused Cantona's moment of madness in 1995 had returned. Not so: the three supporters were friendly and admiring.

Wimbledon, however, were not inclined to retaliate. They hit back in the proper manner when Keane sold his goalkeeper short with a poorly

timed header and Jason Euell — the next Ian Wright, according to Kinnear — stole between them to make the score 3-2. Inevitably, though, Cantona had the final sting. Giggs began the counter-attack with breathtaking pace. Cole, for once, produced a measured return pass that Cantona brought down from shoulder height and Giggs, involved again, hit the ball

against Cunningham. It appeared to be handled involuntarily but the referee said it was a penalty and there was nothing to question about the imperious nature, the nerveless relish, with which Cantona despatched the ball from the penalty spot.

All that remained was the rancour surrounding the absence of Vinnie Jones. Kinnear says it is the parting of the

ways, that Jones, once the embodiment of Wimbledon camaraderie, insists on leaving. "The Secret Squirrel" mob," said Kinnear, referring to agents, "have been at work again. They and small fry (as he called Barry Fry, the Birmingham City manager), are trying to take Jones away behind my back. He can go but I've made it clear that £300,000 is a derisory figure."

The Uniteds of this world can take the points from Selhurst Park, but nobody is going to steal Wimbledon players on the cheap.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, C. Perry, A. Reeves, A. Kimble — N. Arley (sub: J. Goodman, T. Turner), T. Abbott, O. Leachman, M. Gayle, S. Holdsworth (sub: J. Euell, T. A. Clarke).

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): S. Schmeichel — D. Irwin, S. Bruce, J. Beckham, S. Gigg, R. Keane, N. Butt, I. Sharpie — Cantona — A. Cole.

Referee: R. Davies

## Newcastle cancel Wednesday's insurance

Newcastle United ..... 2  
Sheffield Wednesday ..... 0

By PETER BALL

THIRTEEN is lucky for some. With Sheffield Wednesday providing supine opposition on Saturday, Newcastle United were able to avoid the consequences of a halting performance, goals from Les Ferdinand and Lee Clark ensuring that the Premiership leaders' 100 per cent home record now stretches to 13 matches.

But until the goals, an unduly affair was in danger of going down as the game of the three-taken throw-in. A bad pitch and Paul Danson, the referee, offered as much hindrance to the leaders' progress as Wednesday. "We had to cope with an awful referee

today, both sides did," David Platt, the Wednesday manager, said.

Of the referee more later: but Platt knew that Danson's performance, disturbing as it was, made no difference to the final result. "I think we made them work for it, it wasn't one of their champagne days in terms of football," Platt claimed, and with Nicol sitting in front of the back four, there was a tangled green thicket set up for Newcastle to penetrate. But as an attacking force Wednesday were dire — in 90 minutes Strickland had to make one serious save, from Bright.

Wednesday's better performers were all in the back. Above all there was Des Walker. The sight of him moving smoothly into cover, drive to get out of trouble with a burst of speed brought

memories flooding back of the days when the chant "you'll never beat Des Walker" resounded round the football grounds of England.

It is sometimes said that one of the England team's problems is that there are no good central defenders. While Walker continues to play so well in such a poor side, that is nonsense. "He's an insurance policy," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "With that pace of his, he's the perfect cover. Nobody else would have got back to Les Ferdinand that time."

But if Walker made the saving tackle of the match as Ferdinand bore down on goal, and Wednesday's packed defence ensured there were holes in the way of several shots, for much of the time Newcastle's problems were self-inflicted.

And then there was Danson, who held centre stage from the moment early on when the ball went out just inside the Newcastle half. Barton edged forward and edged forward, finally taking the throw five yards into Wednesday's half. Foul throw for taking it from the wrong place.

Nolan picked the ball up, studiously refused to look at the referee, now gesticulating furiously at the right place, and threw it in from the same spot. Foul throw — and high free. But if Danson was being pedantic, he was not wrong, as they say in those parts.

His later actions were less comprehensible. Afternoon just beat Gillespie in one tackle by a fraction. Afternoon got his foot in first and nipped the ball away, as Gillespie, who was going at full tilt in pursuit,

arrived and caught Afternoon. No malice involved — indeed at the pace, it was unavoidable. But Danson got out the yellow card.

If that suggested that he is a referee who knows the rules, but doesn't know the game, it paled beside a later decision as Watts, on a foray forward, went past Beresford and was sent crashing with an embarrassingly clumsy tackle. Knowing Danson's reputation, everyone looked at one another nervously. A yellow card seemed the least Beresford could expect. Danson gave a goal kick.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-1-1): P. Smekitt — M. Barton, S. Ireland, P. Abbott, J. Beresford — S. Watson, R. Lee, L. Clark, K. Gillespie (sub: P. Nelson, S. Galt) — P. Beresford — L. Ferdinand.

Referee: P. Danson

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE					
	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form	
1 Newcastle	24	57	+28	LWWW	
2 Manchester Utd	24	46	+10	WWWWW	
3 Liverpool	25	46	+10	WWWWW	
4 Aston Villa	24	44	+10	WWWWW	
5 Tottenham	25	42	+9	LWWLD	
6 Blackburn	25	41	+13	WDWWW	
7 Nottingham	25	40	+1	LWLWL	
8 Chelsea	25	39	+6	WDWWW	
9 Arsenal	25	38	+8	LLWLD	
10 Everton	25	37	+9	LWDWD	
11 Leeds	25	36	-3	DWLWL	
12 Middlesbrough	25	35	-5	LLLLL	
13 West Ham	24	29	-9	LLWWW	
14 Sheffield Wed	24	28	-5	LWDLW	
15 Southampton	25	25	-11	DLWDD	
16 Manchester City	25	24	-18	WLDDW	
17 Wimbledon	25	24	-15	WLWLW	
18 Coventry	25	21	-17	DLDDL	
19 QPR	25	18	-20	LLLLL	
20 Bolton	25	18	-25	LLWLL	

Weekly change Up Stayed the same Down

## Starlets not ready to confront big boys

Charlton Athletic ..... 0  
Crystal Palace ..... 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

THE Valley is alive with expectation. Charlton Athletic lie second in the Endleigh Insurance League first division and Alan Curtisley, their manager, has signed an extended contract — as have Stuart, Newton and Rufus, some of his highly-prized starlets. The solitary spectre at the prospect of playing in the FA Cup Premier League next season. While it would prove a glamorous and exciting experience — and nobody could deny them the right if they maintain their present position — it is unlikely that it would be too rewarding. Charlton are not yet ready to compete with the big boys on a regular basis, for all their blossoming talent, and a scruffy stalemate against Crystal Palace yesterday only emphasised the yawning gap between Endleigh and Premiership pastures.

Promising approach play proliferated, from both sides, but much of it came to naught, with the final touch-glaringly absent. Pitcher cleared off the line from a goal-bound shot by Bowyer in the first half and Dyer drove weakly at Salmon in the 85th minute, when it

appeared easier to slot the ball past him, and thus the game remained goalless.

Charlton were also denied what appeared to be the most undeniable of penalty awards in the final minute, when Dyer removed the legs from under Mordred only to get away with it. Everybody bar Rodger Gifford, the referee, and his linesmen agreed that Dyer should have been penalised. "It was a penalty," Curtisley said. "I've seen the replay and they got it wrong. That's the way it goes."

Though Ray Lewington, Palace's first-team coach, shared the same opinion, he was more concerned with the apparent interference of Ron Noades, his chairman, in team selection policy at Selhurst Park. "I want us to pass the ball and play football," Lewington said. "Ron feels we're playing the wrong system but I've refused to change it." Brave man.

Palace did try to play football and Charlton did, too. In flurries, it was pleasing to watch, but it was still light years away from the Premiership.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): M. Salmon — J. Mordred, S. Newton, S. Bowyer, P. Mordred — S. Newton, L. Bowyer, P. Mordred, D. Robinson — C. Leighton, K. Grant (sub: D. Whyte, T. Mordred).

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): N. Mordred — D. Noades, A. Roberts, D. Gordon — M. Edwards, D. Mordred, R. Mordred, R. Mordred — D. Noades, G. Taylor, L. Mordred (sub: B. Dyer, 75).

Referee: R. Davies

## Import duty taxes Brolin

Aston Villa ..... 3  
Leeds United ..... 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

TOMAS BROLIN cut a lonely, disillusioned figure, looking the steps on to the team coach at Villa Park. That Leeds United had slumped to a comprehensive FA Cup Premier League defeat was irrelevant; it was the fact that he had not played, despite nine of his team-mates being unavailable, that had necessitated the embarrassed imitation of a humble apprentice.

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, forced his £4.5 million Swede into temporary exile. After only two months in England Brolin had been consigned to the role of baggage carrier. "I was left out, it's very disappointing," he said. "It's the manager's decision, he wanted the team to play a certain way. Perhaps he doesn't think I'm good enough. I need time to fit in but I can't if I'm not playing."

Ominously, Brolin, 24, then contemplated the wider implications, in the comforting knowledge that he or his streetwise agent had insisted on a get-out clause in the deal that had taken him from Parma to Elland Road. "At the end of the season, I have to decide whether I'm staying or not," he said. "I cannot see into the future. The decision has to be made in May but

there is enough time between now and then to consider things."

There, in a hideous nutshell, is the dilemma facing English clubs and their managers. They pay the earth for imported talent, in transfer fees and wages, and agree to almost anything in the contract, as long as the pampered player is content and the buying supporters placated. Yet at the hint of a disagreement, when team selection contradicts all the well-intentioned guarantees, the superstar pleads disenchantment.

Wilkinson maintained a defiant, prickly stance. "I had nine players out and it was a question of seeing who was available and where I could play them," he said. "I thought the team would do better without Tomas. He was concerned at the amount of defending he would have to



Brolin exiled

do and he said he might not be too good at it. I made the decision and he accepted it."

As insults go, Brolin received the ultimate. His place was effectively taken by Alan Maybury, 17, a first-year trainee from Dublin making his debut. That he was taken off at half-time, and replaced by Tinkler, 21, only added to Brolin's displeasure. He could not even make the substitutes' bench.

Would he have made a difference? Probably not. Yorkie, of Aston Villa, possesses all the ingredients of a modern-day striker. He teels wide when needed, defends when possible and displays a keen eye for a goal, as demonstrated in the twelfth and 22nd minutes.

Villa's recovery from the 2-0 midweek defeat against Liverpool — confirmed by Wright's goal in the second half — was thus swift. However, Brolin's omission, and subsequent reaction, was more significant. Has not the Premiership's obsession with continental players, and its bowing and scraping to their excessive demands, reached overload? Kilmarnock yesterday? Brolin today. Asprilla tomorrow? Beware strangers bearing gifts.

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M. Brolin — S. Southern, P. Mordred, S. Southern — C. Clarke, I. Taylor, M. Dwyer, A. Townsend (sub: S. Pardy, S. Mordred, A. Wright) — D. Mordred, D. Whyte.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): M. Brolin — C. Palmer, J. Parnham (sub: R. Worthington, 25), N. Southern — A. Cousins, G. McAllister, A. Maybury (sub: M. Tinkler, 45), G. Speed, A. Dango — S. Dango, R. Wallace.

Referee: R. Davies

## Neal's passion stirs Cardiff revival hopes

Cardiff City ..... 3  
Doncaster Rovers ..... 2

By PAT GIBSON

ANYONE wanting to know why such a distinguished footballer as Phil Neal should put his reputation on the line running such a rundown club as Cardiff City received the answer not long into his first match as their manager.

Colin Cramb, the Doncaster Rovers striker, was trying to keep a high ball in play near the halfway line when he found himself being challenged for possession by a tracksuited figure who had leapt from the dugout with designs of his own.

"I was going to show them how it is done," an embarrassed Neal explained, reminding us of his glory days as a Liverpool full back when he won eight league championship winners' medals, eight more in European cup competitions and 50 England caps.

"I thought I would bring the ball down dead and get a rapturous round of applause but their player beat me to it. Instead I got a ticking off from the referee who said: 'You are not in the Premier League now. Sit down.'"

It would have been hard for him not to realise where he was, however. Ninian Park was an aerie place on Saturday with just 2,313 dotted

around a stadium which once held more than 60,000 for an England v Wales match.

Not that Neal noticed. He was just delighted to be back in the game 11 months after he was required to leave Coventry City when they were in a healthier Premiership position than they are now.

He does not underestimate the size of his task in raising a once Welsh giant, which was not so much sleeping as comatose, but at least he has made a start with a victory which lifted Cardiff three places up the Endleigh Insurance League third division.

It had taken him only a week to transmit some of his passion for football to the players, none of them showing it more than Carl Dale, who scored a brilliant hat-trick with finishing which was worthy of a higher division. "He is like Ian Rush at this level," Neal said of the diminutive Dale, 29, who has scored 24 goals this season.

Neal was not so impressed with a defence which had nobody like Alan Hansen, however, to prevent them from conceding two sloppy goals from right wing corners to Jones and Colombeau.

CARDIFF CITY (4-4-2): D. Williams — H. Fleming, L. Jernan, I. Baskley, D. Scottie — A. Scottie, P. Harding, S. Young, J. Gendron — C. Dale (sub: S. Pardy, S. Mordred), A. Parnham.

DONCASTER ROVERS (4-4-2): R. Kirby, J. Schofield, P. Marquis, S. Parish — S. Colombeau, M. Carmichael, L. Warren, P. Robinson — G. Jones, C. Cramb (sub: S. Mordred, 40).

Referee: M. Preece

## Falkirk's signings pay quick dividend for Lambie

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

IN a competition with so limited a membership as the Bell's Scottish League premier division, failure is always near at hand. Since it features only ten clubs, there is no gentle stretch of mid-table pastureland in which teams can calmly live out their days in safety and obscurity.

Heart of Midlothian, for instance, fought relegation a year ago and, early this season, seemed set for a re-match. Recent form has, however, brought six victories in seven games and sped them into third place. The superiority of the Old Firm is entrenched, but the standards of the remainder of the division only cover a narrow span.

In consequence, small improvements in a side can have dramatic consequences. Equally, it is always a short journey to the relegation zone. Last season Falkirk entertained thoughts of qualifying for Europe. Now, they are set by a dread of tumbling out of the premier division.

The upheavals and reversals of fortune exist by design, since the premier division was created, in 1974, expressly to create a greater number of significant matches. The haunted demeanour of virtually every manager testifies to the relevance of the games.

The tumult, though, can be repellent as well as engrossing. John Lambie, the Falkirk manager, has alleged that a supporter tried to drive him off the road as he made his way home after the shaming defeat by Stenhousemuir in the Scottish Cup on Tuesday. The driver in question then identified himself and claimed that he had "only" been trying to gesture and yell at Lambie.

The manager has become accustomed to abuse of late, even though it is usually delivered while he is stationary on the bench at Brockville. Falkirk are second bottom of the premier division, but lowly league positions and even relegation are hardly novelities. Much more grave are the accusations he faces over a deterioration of style.

Lambie replaced Jim Jefferies, now with Hearts, last summer in an appointment viewed with misgivings even at the time. Patrick Thistle had been sustained in the premier division for three years under Lambie, but there was little affection for the manner in which his teams played.

At Brockville he has also been blamed for consorting the team he inherited from Jefferies. Rumbustiousness, however, will, for the moment, be tolerated if it leads Falkirk to safety. After the embarrassment against Stenhousemuir, the squad held discussions that may have cleared the air only after first turning it blue. Despite falling behind to Kilmarnock on Saturday, Falkirk eventually won 4-2.

In addition, Lambie had the satisfaction of seeing both the players he signed on Wednesday, Tony Finnigan and Dominic Iorfa, score on their debuts. If there was respite for him, though, torment elsewhere continued as before. Hibernian, after a 2-1 defeat at Celtic Park, have now recorded just one victory in the past ten matches. Alex Miller's team, who had broken out of prolonged defending to take the lead, have cause to grumble about the outcome.

When Pierre van Hooijdonk scored the equaliser, Jim Leighton, the Hibernian goalkeeper, was off the field receiving treatment. An outfield player, Darren Jackson, deputising for him, fumbled the ball to allow Celtic to score. The game, however, persistently flirted with the bizarre.

When Leighton first tried to return to the pitch, Sandy Roy, the referee, stopped him because his cut was still bleeding, but Jackson had already taken his goalkeeper's jersey off and come to the halfway line. The official then restarted the game with nobody between the posts, but as Celtic prepared to score, a linesman stopped play.

Paul McStay, who later scored the winner, reported that the linesman had raised his flag because the goalkeeper was not in place. "That's a new rule to me," he said wryly. If Scottish football is a grave business, it still manages to be ludicrous on occasion.







# Guilt is first hazard on round-the-world voyage

BY JAMES CAPSTICK

**SURVIVAL** as a round-the-world amateur yachtsman will require me to face up to and acknowledge the dangers of what I am about to do, even the naivety of my original decision, but then forget all that and get on with it. My defence for participating in the BT Global Challenge Race which starts in September fluctuates between the flippant — it seemed like a good idea at the time — and the profound: it is exactly what I have waited for all my life, or at least since becoming a "thirtysomething".

I used this argument to justify the serious business of abandoning my family for nine months, re-mortgaging the house, selling the car and attracting unwanted attention from the bank manager. I have come to terms with my persistent guilt about all this,

thanks mainly to my long-suffering wife, Tracey, who actually understands me — a rare and sometimes dangerous thing that a woman who understands a man. Our two boys — Stephen, ten, and Christopher, seven — will be in good hands.

For me, the recent crew announcements at the Boat Show in London changed what had been an abstract idea into an imminent reality. Having enjoyed an impromptu get-together on the Guinness stand and a bit of "bawling" at the BT Global Challenge crew reception, I was feeling quite mellow and at peace with my fellow yachtsmen.

As the announcement of crews neared, I found myself looking at my fellow would-be circumnavigators, not with admiration and humility, but fear and trepidation. I have enjoyed sailing with many of

**WHEN** Chay Blyth announced the BT Global Challenge two years ago, he had 6,000 applicants for 165 places on the 1996 fleet, each of which cost the successful entrants £18,750. The Times reserved two berths — one for a man and one for a woman — and offered bursaries towards their costs and the chance to write about their experiences in the paper.

Readers were asked to submit an essay on why they wanted to take part in a tough yacht race against the

**BT**  
**Global Challenge**  
**THE TIMES**

prevailing winds and currents. Anyone aged between 21 and 60 was eligible. From 2,687 entrants, 12 were selected for a training weekend to decide who should fill the

berths. James Capstick, a 37-year-old Surrey police officer, and Lucy Duncan, a 35-year-old Nottingham midwife, were chosen.

The race starts from Southampton in September, when the fleet of 67-foot yachts under the guidance of professional skippers, sets sail for Rio de Janeiro at the start of a 30,000-mile adventure, which will take the crews round Cape Horn and across the dangerous Southern Ocean. The finish is at Southampton in June 1997.



Capstick: epic journey

At last, the moment of truth arrived as Chay Blyth and the overhead projection told us our teams and that I was to crew on Ocean Rover. I have only sailed with one or two of my new crew before and while enjoying a small glass of wine and a chicken leg at a local

hotel courtesy of Ocean Rover, we had an opportunity for a chat.

I am sure we were all sizing one another up, making instant and probably false judgments about each other's strength and weaknesses. I had a weather eye open,

searching the horizon for the "brains" who will navigate us around the world, obviously avoiding the doldrums and the rough bits, or repair the engine with nothing more than an old washing-up bottle, some sticky-back plastic and the tongue out of a deck shoe.

The easiest to spot are the potential foredeck gorillas — they tend to have a glassy, faraway look in their eyes and are often accompanied by "helpers" in a long, white coat. Necessary sailing skills can be taught; Challenge Business (the organisers of the race) have proved that beyond doubt, but it is something else to change a personality and, on our trip, you cannot run or hide. You pray you will not let yourself, or more importantly, anyone else down.

The sponsor, the Rover Group, is totally committed to the project and that is going to be very important. With the amount of support and backing the boat will have, winning should be the easy part. Undoubtedly the most important person on board has to be the skipper. Ocean Rover's Paul Bennett is very competitive and if anyone can get us first over the winning line next

year, he can. However, my wife did question my unflappable confidence in him when late that night, after the crew announcements, she turned out to pick Paul and myself up from a railway station somewhere in darkest Surrey, as a result of a navigational error between Earls Court and Waterloo station.

What next? Sitting here, attempting to write my first piece for *The Times*, I am suddenly reminded of a past feeling of trepidation. As a young police constable sitting in a Crown Court waiting room to give evidence for the first time, I remember being wound up by the old sweats who had done it all before. It would send a shiver down my spine as they solemnly explained how "your every word will be put under the microscope and examined, son".

Sailing the sun and ocean has its attractions.

## Undeclared 'one-punch wonder' from Liverpool has look of a champion

# Powerhouse Neary makes his mark

BY SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

**BOXING** may have found a new Colin Jones. Since the Welshman, who twice came close to lifting the world title retired some ten years ago, the sport has been waiting for a puncher from the lower divisions who can take out an opponent with one blow. Shea Neary, a little-known light-welterweight from Liverpool, could be just such a man. Unbeaten in 16 outings, he has demolished 15 of his opponents in quick time.

The last man to feel the power of his fist was Terry Southerland, of Cincinnati. Southerland was knocked out in the second round of their bout at Everton Park Sports Centre on Saturday. The American, who has boxed against some top opponents, had been on the floor only once in his 22-bout career. He had lost two bouts and one of those defeats was at the hands of Kelsie Banks, the Olympic champion.

"He is very strong," Southerland said. "No one has hit me so hard. I boxed well at the outset but got careless and he was able to capitalise on where I missed. That's a good fighter. He stacks up well against the fighters I have met."

There is little doubt that the "Shamrock Express" is on course to lift the British and European titles. His manager, John Hyland, believes there is not a light-welterweight in Britain to stop him.

Charlie Atkinson, the boxing adviser to Central Television, said: "They keep running from him. You have seen something special. When he wants to take a man out he takes them out. He'll make a hole in those London guys."

Atkinson was right. Just before the end of the first round, Neary, who had been outboxed, suffered a cut by his eye. Tony Green, the referee told him: "I'm going to stop you at the end of this round."



Neary traps Southerland on the ropes before unleashing another powerful attack on the American in their light-welterweight bout

Neary replied: "I'll stop it first."

True to his word, he trapped Southerland against the ropes and unleashed a right. It landed on the American's chin and deposited him flat on his back. Gary Newton, head of sport at Central Television, was delighted. As ITV was looking for new talent, he had decided to check out the one-punch wonder.

Newton said: "Neary is a

really exciting fighter, like a white Nigél Benn. We picked Southerland. Promoters have always discussed opponents with me, but this time I told Hyland: 'If you are prepared to let us find the opponent, we'll put him on'. We knew Southerland was good. But it might have gone on longer if Neary hadn't been cut."

Having turned professional at 23 after leaving the Army and without much amateur

experience, Neary is still a little raw. But he has a Tyson-like search-and-destroy determination and if he can adopt the Tyson head movements, he could become a good world-title prospect.

Atkinson believes, however, that it is his rawness that makes him exciting to watch and, no doubt, if he carries on knocking them over he will get high viewer ratings.

Britain's latest heavyweight

hope, Matthew Ellis looks destined to have as colourful and exciting a career as Billy Walker, some 30 years ago — but he could prove more successful. On the undercard, he knocked out Laurent Rouze, of France, in one round. Rouze was not much of an opponent, but this was only the first professional appearance of the Amateur Boxing Association heavyweight champion. Nonetheless, it was

possible to see that the 1st 10lb six-footer from Blackpool is, unlike so many other British heavyweights, light on his feet and has quick hands. Most important, he is able to put combinations together.

He floored Rouze with a four-punch sequence. As Reg Gutteridge, the commentator, said about the French milkman: "Milkmen get up early, but this one's not going to make this round."

The temperature was rising towards 30C, the team that has now re-christened itself from *Bafana Bafana* (The Boys) to *Mandela's Rainbow Warriors*, was on a high, and fate had rounded South Africa's circle, victory with the oval ball of the Afrikaners, had come to mean the same thing to the once divided populace.

Possibly the most naive question of the day had come from a broadcaster who asked whether Mandela could spare the time from politics to attend the final. These games are politics.

As Mandela stepped down to the field, flanked by F W de Klerk and by the Zulu king, Goodwill Zwelithini, there were reverberations of the message that sport is unity in a nation which once divided sport on colour lines. Neil Tovey, the white captain whose replica shirt was worn by the black president, offered the trophy to Mandela.

Mandela kissed it briefly, touched it, and then like the grandfather he is urged Tovey and "The Boys" to take their place in the sunshine of South African celebration. They had to dance their way through the security cordon, the reality that the country still faces a difficult transition, but as their high spirits lapped the stadium, one knew that we could never separate sport from politics, nor regard playing games as a frivolous activity.

## Desire makes crucial difference

Rob Hughes watches South Africa add another trophy to burgeoning collection

Mandela was like a child lifted from his seat. Indeed Winnie Mandela — for once under the same roof as her estranged husband — was also in a celebratory dance, though there was no coming together as a pair, and not likely to be a reconciliation given the connotation that



President Mandela and King Goodwill Zwelithini wave to the crowd before the African Nations Cup final

The South Africans were not the most talented footballers on their continent, but they beat the best teams by a series of advantages — by the huge, predominantly black support, by 1,763 metres of altitude, by obliging refereeing (though not in the final which was well refereed by the Ugandan, Charles Masmabe). Above all, they had an advantage named desire.

"It's just from feelings," Williams, 28, had said before the kick-off "the feeling inside us players for South Africa."

Feelings indeed. It appeared instinct that thrust Williams forward to powerfully head the first goal moments after he had taken the field. In the stands, surrounded at last by many hundreds of white faces in the crowd that once again at Soccer City well exceeded the official capacity of 80,000, President

## Runcorn buried by latest Hayles storm

BY WALTER GAMMIE

**RUNCORN** must be heartily sick of the sight of Barry Hayles of Stevenage Borough. He scored three times against them in November when Stevenage won 8-0 at Canal Street and precipitated the departure of John Carroll from the Runcorn management. On Saturday, he crashed in another hat-trick against Runcorn as Stevenage won the return match at Broadhall Way 4-1.

The victory lifted Stevenage to within a point of Macclesfield Town at the top of the Vauxhall Conference with two matches in hand, and makes Hayles an even hotter property. Signed from Willesden Hawkeye, the Spartan League club, 18 months ago, Hayles has now scored 15 league goals in his attacking midfield role.

With Macclesfield's match against Northwich Victoria postponed, further heaping news for Stevenage came from Kingfield where Woking were held to a 1-1 draw by Bromsgrove Rovers. Despite losing ground at the head of the table, Woking could draw consolation from preserving an unbeaten home that started in December 1994 even though they were without five regulars.

A crowd of 2,481 were drawn for the opening of the new stand that has brought Woking's stadium the A grading it needs to make it acceptable for the Endsleigh Insurance League. The shadow over Stevenage's success is

that they are not yet in a position to press ahead and take their ground up to standard and would be unable to win promotion if they went on to win the title.

Paul Fairclough, the manager, said: "It's frustrating but you can judge our response by the fact that when we were told of the decision, our next fixture was that game at Runcorn. Whatever competition you play in, whatever level you play at, you go flat out to win. That's human nature."

Lee Hughes scored the day's second hat-trick as Kidderminster Harriers beat Dagenham and Redbridge 5-1. Telford United's 2-1 win at Slough left Dagenham isolated at the foot of the table.

Canvey Island, of the Ics League, reached the quarter-finals of the FA Carlsberg Vase by coming from behind to beat Thamesmead 2-1 with an 89th-minute goal by Gary Brimell in a fifth-round match played at Slade Green's ground, the Small Glen, yesterday.

Thamesmead, a Winston-lead Kent League side who do not pay their players, had already knocked out Arlesley Town, the holders, and shocked Canvey by taking the lead through Dean Burns in the first half. Andy Jones brought Canvey level after Dermot Gallagher, the Premiership referee, had awarded a penalty for a foul on the striker in the 77th minute.

## Why lowering levels may provide recipe for disaster

Brian Clarke says anglers are right to be apprehensive about the actions of water companies



**Anglers** have watched with dismay as the list of abstraction applications has lengthened this winter. Among the most highly publicised have been those by Yorkshire Water to take more from the rivers Wharfe and Ure and by North West Water to take more from Windermere and Ullewater, thus lowering the levels of these lakes by several feet.

Wherever significant abstraction takes place — and it is now very common — the public debate is not about the need of people to have reliable water supplies: all sensible persons recognise this need. The debate is about the responsibility of the supplier in capturing and transporting it effectively and the need for the consumer not to be profligate. Either way, the niceties of argument matter little where the real crunch comes. Mostly out of sight and away from media focus, the effect on wildlife when water is drawn down, is the same.

Naturalists and conservationists everywhere are concerned about the threats posed by additional abstraction. No group, though, is more concerned than the anglers. Anglers are concerned not just with the fish which provide their sport but with the health of the whole aquatic environment. Their legal arm, the Anglers' Conservation Association, has pursued hundreds of offending organisations through the courts and carried many a fight to the High Court, to make the point. Those who fish, perhaps above all, know that when a river sickens or dies, it is a terrible thing.

The pattern, if abstraction anywhere is overdue, is broadly the same. It is seen at its most graphic on rivers, especially the bright, clean rivers in which fish such as trout can live; and it becomes most apparent in the context of the natural cycle which all rivers have.

Rivers depend for their flows on rain. Most rain falls in winter, least in summer and rivers rise and fall as a result. All life in rivers is governed by the seasonal fluctuations and has evolved to cope with them. It is for this reason that abstraction even in winter, when rivers are not at their lowest, can be damaging.

Trout have evolved so that they spawn in winter, when an adequate supply of water is naturally available. They spawn by digging scoops in the stream-bed gravel, deposit their eggs in the scoops and then cover them over with more gravel.

The spawning places are where the flow is normally of such a pace that the water keeps the eggs free of silt and washed with oxygen. These spawning places tend to be in feeder streams, or in the shallower parts of the main river, or in places where springs well up strongly through a river bed.

If the water level is drawn down after the eggs have been laid — usually in January — the spawning beds can become silted through lack of flow. If the level is drawn down sufficiently, spawning

beds can be left high and dry. The first loss of fish life occurs. The hatching of the young trout in February or March is timed to coincide with the emergence of the specialised, tiny aquatic insects which small trout eat. These insects, likewise, have evolved to live in places not usually dried out in winter and so the populations of these insects, and the food available for the youngest and most vulnerable fish, is reduced. More deaths.

In summer, the beds of healthy streams are a mass of insect life. These insects provide the food of all fish, large and small. Caddis flies are typical. Tiny caddis larvae build small stone cases around themselves, for protection. When they are ready to pupate before hatching, these larvae attach their cases to larger stones and seal up the end — in much the same way as a caterpillar shuts itself in a chrysalis before emerging as a butterfly. Pupating caddis flies, unattached as they are to stones, are immobile. As the river shrinks to unnatural levels because of abstraction, countless caddis cases can be exposed to the drying summer sun. It is the same with the nymphs of insects which live on the surface of stones in fast water. As flows drop beyond the rate which these insects can tolerate, so these

populations also are reduced or lost. So are the nymphs and larvae of other insects that live in some weeds. As flows fall beyond the point which these weeds need to thrive, so the weeds die and the habitat of dependent creatures is lost. The deadly downward spiral steepens.

Less water not only equals less food, but less space. All trout need food and cover and, like the wild animals on the bank above, they will fight to get what they need. The fry that have survived the perils of the spawning beds begin to compete among themselves for space and the weakest are driven away to places in which they cannot support themselves. Still more loss.

The larger fish congregate in the deepest pools and again competition occurs because the reduced currents in such places cannot feed all the fish now packed in them. Again, the smaller and weaker of the larger fish are driven away to places that will not sustain them and further mortalities occur. The small fry which find their way near their larger, hungry cousins find themselves on the menu. The big fish left gathered in the pools become easier prey for herons and cormorants and poachers.

And so it continues and steadily gets worse. The arguments rage over who or what is to blame. The casual camera points at the surface, but cannot see through it. And yet anglers see it in close-up and understand. It is no wonder they are filled with apprehension, no wonder they watch and fight and sue as they do. It is a terrible thing when a river sickens or dies.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.



Report highlights how industry is losing almost £4m per year

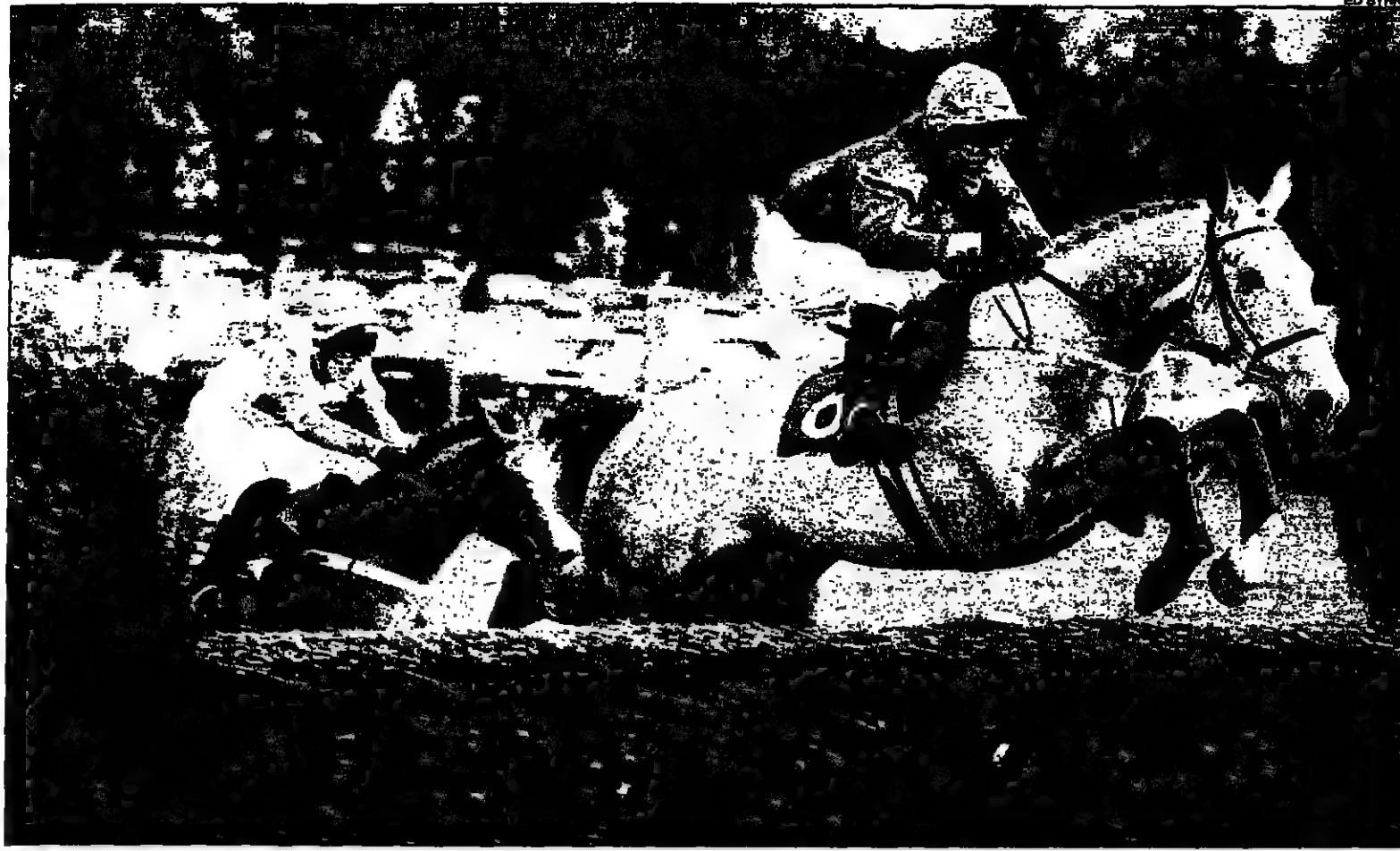
# Ladbroke's denounces fixture list

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

RACING'S much-vaunted "customer-friendly" fixture list is a financial disaster, which is preventing the sport from earning almost £4 million a year in extra revenue, according to a detailed report published yesterday.

The emphasis placed by the British Horseracing Board (BHB) on scheduling meetings when the race-going customer finds it easier to attend — particularly evenings — has had a devastating impact on off-course betting turnover, and thereby hit levy proceeds which underpin racing's finances.

The report, produced by Ladbroke's, accuses the BHB



Senior El Betruti puts in a fine leap on his way to victory in the Scilly Isles Novices' Chase at Sandown on Saturday.

## RICHARD EVANS

Nags: RAMBOLD WALTZER (3.30 Southwell)  
Nest best Serious Fast (1.30 Southwell)

Richard Evans landed a good-pressed win at Sandown on Saturday with High Noon (6-1). Julian Munnion selected Tringlot (6-1) and Amrak Express (11-8). In the television guide and Robert Wright recommended Tringlot at 10-1 in his Racing Ahead column last week.

of ignoring "the overwhelming evidence that the so-called 'customer-friendly' fixture list is depressing turnover to an extent that it is costing racing substantially more in levy than is being gained at the turnstiles."

At the heart of Ladbroke's cogently argued case is the damage being done by switching meetings from weekday afternoons when there are plenty of punters in betting shops — to evenings and Sundays, when the premises are virtually deserted. To make matters worse, the introduction of summer jump meetings, at the expense of fixtures during the winter, has also proved unpopular.

Ladbroke's has produced telling financial statistics, culled from the Racecourse Association and BHB, to prove that increased turnover revenue pales into insignificance compared to the loss of levy income.

"Changes to the midweek

fixture programme which has increased by nearly 100 per cent the number of afternoons with only two fixtures — 122 days in 1995 compared to 64 in 1993 — has resulted in a loss of some £1.5 million in levy yield in 1995," the report states.

"The loss of 102 third fixtures on weekday afternoons (in 1996) will result in an estimated levy shortfall of over £3 million."

Ladbroke's has also produced detailed proposals for changing the fixture list in 1997, which it claims would increase levy yield by £3,720,000 a year — and help to reverse the 30 per cent decline in bookmaking profits.

In an attempt to maximise racing's revenue through off-course betting turnover, Ladbroke's recommends that the Levy Board should support three race meetings every

weekday afternoon and four on Saturdays and Bank Holidays; 96 evening meetings compared to 190 this year; and the same number of Sunday meetings — 30.

Summer jump racing has not proved successful for racing's finances and the two-year trial should not be repeated in 1997, the report says.

"Taking fixtures from the core afternoon period in the traditional National Hunt season and transferring them into an overcrowded summer racing season costs £15,000 per fixture in levy yield. The small increase in attendance does not offset this loss of levy."

"Flat racing is the first choice for the betting shop customer and turnover peaks in the autumn months, when significant numbers of runners are available. There is a considerable opportunity to add more fixtures in September, October and November, extending the flat season to

the third week of November," the report added.

All-weather racing is proving increasingly popular with High Street punters — generating turnover 50 per cent higher than summer jump racing — and should be extended to produce flat racing throughout the year, with extra all-weather tracks being developed.

Although Sunday racing has not proved a success for off-course bookmakers, Ladbroke's acknowledges the meetings delivered 60 per cent of the growth in "customer-friendly" fixture attendances last year "and appear cash-positive to racing."

However, it suggests the 30 Sunday fixtures should be timetable in three blocks — March-April, August-September and October-November — to boost punter awareness.

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## British pair lodges in Ireland

MASTER OATS and Monsieur Le Cure, the British-trained declarations for yesterday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown, are to race in Ireland after the postponement of the race because of frost. The pair will lodge at the track until the re-run on Sunday.

The meeting at Leopardstown was cancelled yesterday morning after the frost failed to thaw. Ireland's most prestigious steeplechase was also delayed by a week two years ago, when Jodanai gained the second of his three consecutive victories. But the gelding, trained

by Peter Beaumont, is coughing and will not race his chance.

Kim Bailey, the trainer of Master Oats, said: "Master Oats might as well stay over here but won't be able to do anything." John Edwards, Monsieur Le Cure's trainer, was unconcerned and reported his gelding was in good shape.

Today's fixture at Newton Abbot is subject to a 6.45am inspection because of frost. Fontwell, also scheduled for today, was called off yesterday. Carlisle's meeting tomorrow depends on an inspection this afternoon.

## Professionals point way on safety discipline

Ashley Farrant was at his best on Saturday, riding a point-to-point treble at the North Cornwall meeting with the finesse that typifies many amateurs now taking part in the sport.

He later paid tribute to the trainer and horses, but then took the trouble to praise the Jockey Club's chief medical adviser, Dr Michael Turner, which in point-to-pointing circles is akin to unfurling a banner at Selhurst Park proclaiming "Cantona lives".

Then again, Farrant knows a thing or two about a good kicking, and he has had more conversations with Dr Turner than even Declan Murphy.

Farrant broke his leg last season and Saturday's victories were his first since that injury, yet it was a fall the year before at Haldon which has left a bigger impact. Having hit the turf on that occasion, he was struck in the face by a hoof and blacked out. His bottom lip is scarred, teeth are missing, but he was spared the sensation of drowning in blood, a medical team being on hand to ensure an air channel was kept open.

The cuts were stitched and being young — he is now 24 — and keen, he turned up at Ottery the following week expecting to ride, but was turned down by the doctor and missed the rest of the season.

"At the time, I called Dr Turner every name under the sun," Farrant recalled. "I felt fit enough but he refused to give me permission to ride."

Knowing about his battle with medical authority, it was unexpected to hear the rider admit: "Dr Turner was absolutely right. He made sure I didn't come back until it was safe. I thought I was okay at the time but, looking back, I was shot to bits."

Farrant continued: "Weeks later, people who were saying 'you're quiet Ash, I wasn't

all there, I was so slow. Not being allowed to ride was the best thing that happened to me."

Such eulogies are rarely given to Dr Turner — Declan Murphy cursed him and other riders are doing so now. He is accused of withholding too much medical tape, much of it expensive.

His critics ask: "Why wrap in cotton wool a sport which has thrilled riders for 150 years? The sport will always be dangerous and riders know the risk." Ashley Farrant did not, nor do inexperienced riders who can take part without any proof of competence, which chills the doctor by a degree or two.

Point-to-pointing's Liaison Committee (PPLC), the

CARL EVANS



Racing commentary

sport's most powerful body, has pushed through a number of safety improvements but injury statistics still make gloomy reading. At his meeting last year, safety will be on the agenda, but Dr Turner has not been invited, which is a public relations mistake if nothing else.

In the meantime, he urges all point-to-point riders to buy the latest safety helmet, a product which became compulsory under Rules on Thursday. It offers more protection and the doctor wanted point-to-pointing to force riders to use it from the same date.

The PPLC refused, stalling such a ruling until next season. There is a lot of racing to come — on their head but that decision.

## NEWTON ABBOT

2.20 It's Not My Fault 14 (5.5) (P) J. J. Jones 6-11-12. Mr J. J. Jones (7) 93  
2.30 Stater Stephanie 4.50 MISTER ODDY (nap) 4.20 MISTER ODDY (nap)  
2.50 Court Melody 4.50 MISTER ODDY (nap)

GOING: HEAVY (6.45AM INSPECTION) SIS

2.20 BERNIE THE BOLT SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (21.87: 3m 30) (17 runners)

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**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

## TODAY

Interims: Elbief, Henderson Administration Group, Mid Wynd Investment Trust, US Smaller Companies Investment Trust, Waste Management International.  
 Finals: Fleming Cleverhouse.  
 Economic statistics: UK housing starts and completions (December), UK M0 narrow money supply.

## TOMORROW

Interims: BSKyB, Howard Holdings.  
 Finals: French Property Trust, Gardiner Group, Pepsico, Yeoman Investment Trust.  
 Economic statistics: UK industrial production (December).

## WEDNESDAY

Interims: BAA (Q3), Betacom, Excalibur Group.  
 Finals: Amicable Smaller Enterprise, Continental Assets Trust, Continental Foods, Goodyear, Murray European Investment Trust, SKF.  
 Economic statistics: UK monthly monetary meeting, UK cyclical indicators (January), US trade deficit (November), Confederation of British Industry regional trends survey.

## THURSDAY

Interims: Amsted, British Telecom (Q3), Wyfield Group, Westminster Healthcare.  
 Finals: Colgate-Palmolive, Edinburgh Java Trust, Ericsson, Gartmore Emerging Pacific, P&P.  
 Economic statistics: none scheduled.

## FRIDAY

Interims: Compel Group.  
 Finals: Heavitree Brewery, Nightingale.  
 Economic statistics: CBI distributive trades survey (January).

## SUNDAY TIPS

Sunday Telegraph: Bay Frederick Cooper, Limit, Hixco Select, CLM, Sell Standard Chartered. The Mail On Sunday: Bay Merchant Retail Group, Main and Overseas, Hold WPP, Aegis, Independent On Sunday: Bay Games Workshop, Sell Sainsbury, Perpetual, Cassidy Brothers, Airtrics. The Sunday Times: Bay Williams Holdings, Bloomsbury, MKT, Hold Bardon, Sell Border TV, Observer: Sell Tomkins, BP, Shell.

## COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

## OFT poser for BSKyB watchers

**BSkyB:** When analysts converge on the group tomorrow to discuss its half-year figures, the main topic of conversation is likely to revolve around the Office of Fair Trading investigation into its competitive position in the television subscription market.

As far as brokers are concerned, the outcome of the inquiry is crucial in establishing the long-term prospects of BSKyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. NatWest Securities, the broker, maintains that the group's claim to have bilateral political support has been damaged by Labour Party concern relating to the exclusive screening rights of major sports events and control of encryption technology. It says that BSKyB's current rating makes it vulnerable to any unfavourable regulatory decision.

Even so, tomorrow's figures should make impressive reading. The group has already indicated that its second-quarter performance will be a virtual repeat of the first quarter, which saw pre-tax profits double to £51 million. Brokers are looking for the first six months to show profits surging from £63.3 million to about £106 million.

Meanwhile, the group will concentrate on its joint programming venture with Granada and its entry into pay-per-view television with Frank Bruno's fight against Mike Tyson next month.

**BRITISH TELECOM:** Third-quarter figures on Thursday mark Sir Peter Bonfield's debut as chairman. While the group's performance will be under close scrutiny, much of the emphasis will be placed on what Sir Peter has to say about regulatory matters overhanging the group and the future direction of the company.

Estimates for pre-tax profits range from £741 million to £800 million, compared with £660 million last time. However, the improvement will stem as much from a drop in redundancy charges as any increase in profits at the operating level, which may even show a small decline.



Man for all seasons: Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSKyB, has encountered concern over sports coverage

The installation of business lines is likely to have remained buoyant but the number of domestic connections will probably have continued to decline.

The real focus of attention will be on the regulatory situation. BT remains at odds with Ofel, the industry regulator, and there is no sign of the problems between the two sides being resolved.

Ofel is expected to make

known its final licence modifications by May, with BT allowed until the end of July for consultation before either accepting them or referring the whole matter to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

**BAA:** In spite of increased competition from the likes of Eurostar, and the Channel link, the number of passengers passing through the

group's departure lounges and duty free shops shows encouraging growth.

This augurs well for third-quarter figures to be announced on Wednesday, which should reveal pre-tax profits 11 per cent higher at £361 million and a healthy growth in earnings per share of 2.8p to 26.3p.

After a sluggish start to the current financial year, traffic growth picked up towards the

end of 1995, with the group boasting a better than expected rise of almost 6 per cent. This was in spite of increased competition and a dull charter market.

NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for an increase of 4.3 per cent, to £304 million, in revenues from airport charges, partly reflecting the rebalancing of peak and off-peak charges.

The inquiry into a fifth

terminal at Heathrow continues to rumble on and is unlikely to be concluded until next year at the earliest. But the five-yearly review of operations, which sees the Civil Aviation Authority setting airport charges, should be finished at the end of October.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL:** Full-year figures on Friday are unlikely to make pleasant reading, but hopes are high that they will prove to be a turning point in the group's fortunes. Brokers are bracing themselves for a drop in pre-tax profits of about £20 million to £145 million.

The group gave a clear indication of the extent of the damages back in December, when it said that provisions accompanying the figures were likely to reach £123 million. This arguably took some of the steam out of the situation as far as the market was concerned.

Much of the problem stems from its Hazwaste division, which bore the brunt of last year's writedowns. France has been a particularly annoying thorn in the group's side, struggling to come to terms with overcapacity.

The WMI management is now taking steps to reduce costs and cap overheads at £150 million a year. A total of 300 senior and middle managers will lose their jobs.

**DALGETY:** Brokers will be looking for evidence of how the integration of its Quaker Foods European pet food operation is bedding down when the company unveils half-year figures on Monday.

Quaker Foods was acquired last year for £442 million and is expected to have performed well, with the Felix label grabbing market share from Dalgety's own home-based pet food operation.

That aside, the group continues to struggle in its main home market, where trading conditions remain difficult. Pre-tax profits for the first six months are expected to fall short of last year's £60.9 million, with City estimates pitched at between £47 million and £55 million.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## Spotlight falls on industrial output

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ATTENTION will focus this week on Britain's industrial output figures for December, due to be published tomorrow. Evidence so far, including last week's Purchasing Managers' Index, suggests that production remains flat and economists are predicting nothing more than a 0.3 per cent rise in manufacturing output, which would give a year-on-year rise of 0.9 per cent.

Total industrial production is forecast to rise 0.4 to 0.6 per cent, boosted slightly by North Sea oil and gas output, which would mean an annual rise of about 1.5 to 1.7 per cent.

Retail sales, by contrast, have been more positive of late and January M0 money supply figures, due today, and the CBI's trades survey for January, out on Friday, will indicate whether the improved trend has continued. Forecasts for M0 were in the range of minus 0.6 to plus 1.0 per cent, according to MMS International, equal to a year-on-year rise of 5.5 to 7.2 per cent.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Bank Governor, meet on Wednesday for their regular monthly meeting, but after producing a surprise base rate cut last time, no change is expected for a while, probably until rates start falling in Europe.

In France, the CGT trade union federation is calling for further protests this week. A Bank of France council meeting planned for Thursday is unlikely to result in any French rate cuts.

Figures from Germany this week include December manufacturing orders, while US data will include the November trade balance for goods and services, today, and December consumer credit, on Wednesday.

## Scottish Life chases expatriate market

By MARIANNE CURPHEY AND CAROLINE MERRELL

SCOTTISH LIFE will tomorrow follow in the footsteps of its fellow life offices in Edinburgh by creating an offshore joint venture aimed at expatriates. Its partner in the venture will be Kleinwort Benson, the investment bank. It is under-

stood the operation will be headed by John Allison of Ivory & Sims, who helped launch TrustLink, I&S's first venture into retail investment. The venture, based in Dublin, will be known as Scottish Life International. Mr Allison

will be marketing director and is expected to be joined by Rick May and Mike Richardson, two former senior Clerical Medical & General managers.

Mr Allison left Ivory & Sims last week after two years as

managing director of TrustLink to be replaced by Richard Ramsey, I&S marketing director. Scottish Life refused to confirm the launch of the offshore venture and would only say it was "looking at all possibilities".

## Germans to pay £180m for Lloyd's building

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

LOYD'S OF LONDON'S City headquarters has been bought by Despa, a German property fund, after beating bids from three rivals. The price for the ten-year-old building is about £180 million, £20 million below building cost.

The Lime Street property has been unofficially for sale since last May, when plans were approved to sell it, but has been on the market since December. Prudential is believed to have been one of the firms interested in bidding for it, but Despa made an offer on January 31.

A spokesman for Lloyd's yesterday said that contracts had been exchanged and the sale would go ahead either today or tomorrow after all 18 members of the Council of Members had been contacted and had given their approval.

The money raised will go towards the insurance market's proposed £2.8 billion settlement for loss-making names. Lloyd's will lease back the building for 25 years, paying about £30 per sq ft.

The purchase confirms the growing dominance of the Germans in the UK property market. Despa already owns a number of buildings in the centre of London, including Hill House in Little New Street and 171 Victoria Street, let to John Lewis, the retailer.

Lloyd's said it had secured "a good deal" on the property, but still has to pay for maintenance and repairs on the controversial glass and steel building. Despa is expected to make a 6 per cent return on its investment.



## Eat out for a fiver

DINING IS always a pleasure, but with *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer it is also affordable and with over 400 restaurants to choose from, there is something to suit everyone's taste. From the north of Scotland to the coast of Cornwall, you can sample the cuisine of the nation's top chefs for a fraction of what you would normally pay. From more than 400 restaurants participating all are offering lunch for £5, but many are also offering dinner for £5. The majority are offering a two course menu, some are offering as many as three courses for only £5 and some offer a one course £5 menu. To apply cut out the vouchers which are appearing in *The Times*. The first is printed below and more will appear daily until Saturday, February 17.

Each voucher entitles you and up to five companions to dine at the participating restaurants featured in today's *Eat Out For £5* guide. The more vouchers you collect, the more restaurants you may dine in. All bookings and inquiries should be made by phone to the restaurant and you must mention *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer when you make your booking. You must present your voucher when you arrive at the restaurant. The offer is available from February 12 until March 31, 1996 inclusive. Full terms and conditions are published in the guide.

If you did not get a copy of "Eat Out For £5" in *The Times* today, please call 0171 782 7155 to receive a copy.

This voucher entitles the bearer and up to five guests to a one, two or three course meal for £5 each at any one of the participating restaurants in *The Times* Eat out for £5 guide.

## CONDITIONS OF USE

Reservations must be made in advance and the voucher presented on arrival. The offer applies to the Eat out for £5 menu only at applicable sittings for up to six people. One, two or three courses apply as specified in the guide. Where less than three courses are offered, starters and desserts can be selected from the main menu and the appropriate price must be paid. This offer applies to food only - drinks must be purchased separately. Where no drinks are purchased, restaurants may charge a discretionary £2 per person cover charge. The offer is valid from February 12 until March 31, 1996. Refer to the guide for full details, days available and whether lunch or dinner is being offered.

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Martin Waller on why the cold snap left customers hot under the collar

# Is British Gas Service losing control?

For a few days after Christmas, while most of the country was leafing through *Della* for yet another use for cold turkey, a select band of householders had more pressing priorities. These priorities were raising the ambient temperature in their living rooms to above freezing and the public dismemberment of David Wells and his team.

For that brief period, Mr Wells was probably the most unpopular man in the UK — the managing director of British Gas's newly demerged service business. Fat cat utility bosses are at their least loved when their utility is not even delivering the goods — as Yorkshire Water has found out — and the service side was failing its customers in their thousands.

In October, British Gas increased the price of its three-star service contract to more than £100 in some areas. That contract is designed to offer peace of mind by guaranteeing same-day service and repair if the fault is reported by 7.30 in the evening. Within a month of the price rise, as this newspaper was the first to note, customers whose heating or hot water failed were discovering that the guarantee could not be relied upon.

The sudden cold snap meant gas engineers were too busy in some parts of the country even to guarantee arrival on any given day. Customers who had thought they were insured were waiting for days in sub-zero temperatures, with no quarter granted to the sick, the old or those with young children.

It got worse. The long freeze over Christmas and the New Year again caught out British Gas, particularly in Scotland, where the weather was appalling, and in the South East region that had borne the brunt of the earlier problems. Worse still, the tabloids were onto the problem.

"The vast majority of people who have contacted us over Christmas would have got a same-day call," Mr Wells insists. The statistics show that in December 86 per



The heat is on: David Wells, managing director, admits that British Gas Service failed to deliver the goods during the recent bad weather

cent of calls were responded to on the same day, although this is a long way below the 95 per cent achieved in the same month of 1994.

But the statistics mask huge regional variations and the fact that most of the trouble came at the end of the month. In the worst-affected area, West London, the December average fell to little better than two thirds. The response rate during the worst weather is unlikely to have topped 50 per cent, and on some days it could have been much lower.

Mr Wells insists that the causes of this misery were twofold. There was significantly worse weather than anyone

had seen for five years, and his service operation is in the middle of an unprecedented reorganisation programme.

The old regional structure of 90-odd administrative sectors is coming down to seven areas. The workforce is falling from 25,500 in 1994 to a projected 10,000 in 1999, although some of the losses will be redeployed in Transco, British Gas's transportation business. The number of premises British Gas Service operates from will fall from 422 to just 11.

The service business was hived off in March 1994 as British Gas prepared for full competition in the domestic supply market, a trial of which

is now just months away. "It was quite clear that at least the gas supply part had to have a clean profit and loss account to compete against new competitors," says Mr Wells. "That meant the service activities had to stand on their own two feet as well."

The process of separation was imperfect, he admits. "We knew that it was going to be a struggle. We knew we would have a problem in keeping the eye wholly on the ball. We have fallen short in some respects but it hasn't been from want of trying." As part of the reorganisation, Service

has pulled out of some unprofitable areas, such as domestic cooker repairs and tendered work for local authorities, and put in a raft of new computer systems. These market withdrawals account for the bulk of the engineers lost, says Mr Wells. "For our core activities, we don't have any fewer engineers than we did two years ago," he says.

Other innovations are a gizmo developed with Panasonic — a CD-Rom field terminal carried by engineers that diagnoses faults on heating systems and can be used by the engineer to order any part needed — and a new store in Leicester that will carry 97

to 98 per cent of all parts now used in domestic systems. The aim is that if the engineer does not carry the necessary part, as he should do in 65 per cent of visits, these will be supplied by the next day.

The problem is that all these systems are not yet in place, but are being rolled out piecemeal over the next year. By next winter the whole lot should be operational, but this will not help customers who suffer in any further cold snaps this winter. "People here are focused on getting through the rest of the winter in one piece," Mr Wells admits.

The worry is that the well-publicised disasters will mean

customers will not take out further service contracts as they come up for annual renewal. British Gas Service has about three million such customers, four fifths of the market, but there are plenty of hungry competitors, some of whom are already touting for business.

Bob Frazer, head of operations, is equally candid about the disasters of this winter and the danger that the chaos will continue. Conditions in Scotland, he says, were "almost unprecedented. Whenever we get that sort of weather we're going to have trouble".

In the South East, he admits, his regional offices were not giving priority where they should, to contract customers and the sick or elderly, or those with young children. "Our managers out there were changing the priorities. They were under pressure from customers."

"If people were shouting loud enough, on-demand customers (those who had not taken out service contracts) were getting priority over contract customers. I think it was because of the pressure our people were getting over the telephones."

The offending contracts, which came in a bewildering variety of forms because of the earlier regional structure, are being redrafted as a single document. The final wording is not yet settled, but it is likely to emphasise that same-day service cannot be relied on in all cases, where conditions are exceptionally bad or demand is especially heavy.

"We're not looking to find a form of words that will let us off the hook with our customers. We're looking to provide same-day service for anyone who calls before 7.30 in the evening," says Mr Frazer.

The central question is whether next winter, with all the improvements in place, will be better than this one for British Gas Service customers. "It's got to be," both men say in unison. Mr Wells adds: "We will go down the tubes as a business if it isn't."

## Borrie supports watchdog reform

By Philip Bassett  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LORD BORRIE, the former Director-General of Fair Trading, calls today for the scrapping of the current system of utility regulation in favour of a single regulatory commission.

His support for a single regulatory body follows similar calls from Sir Bryan Carsberg, his successor at the Office of Fair Trading, and from the all-party Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee.

While Labour is pledged to bring in a single regulatory body, government ministers insist it would be inappropriate to maintain that the current system, including the separate maintenance of the OFT and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, should be sustained.

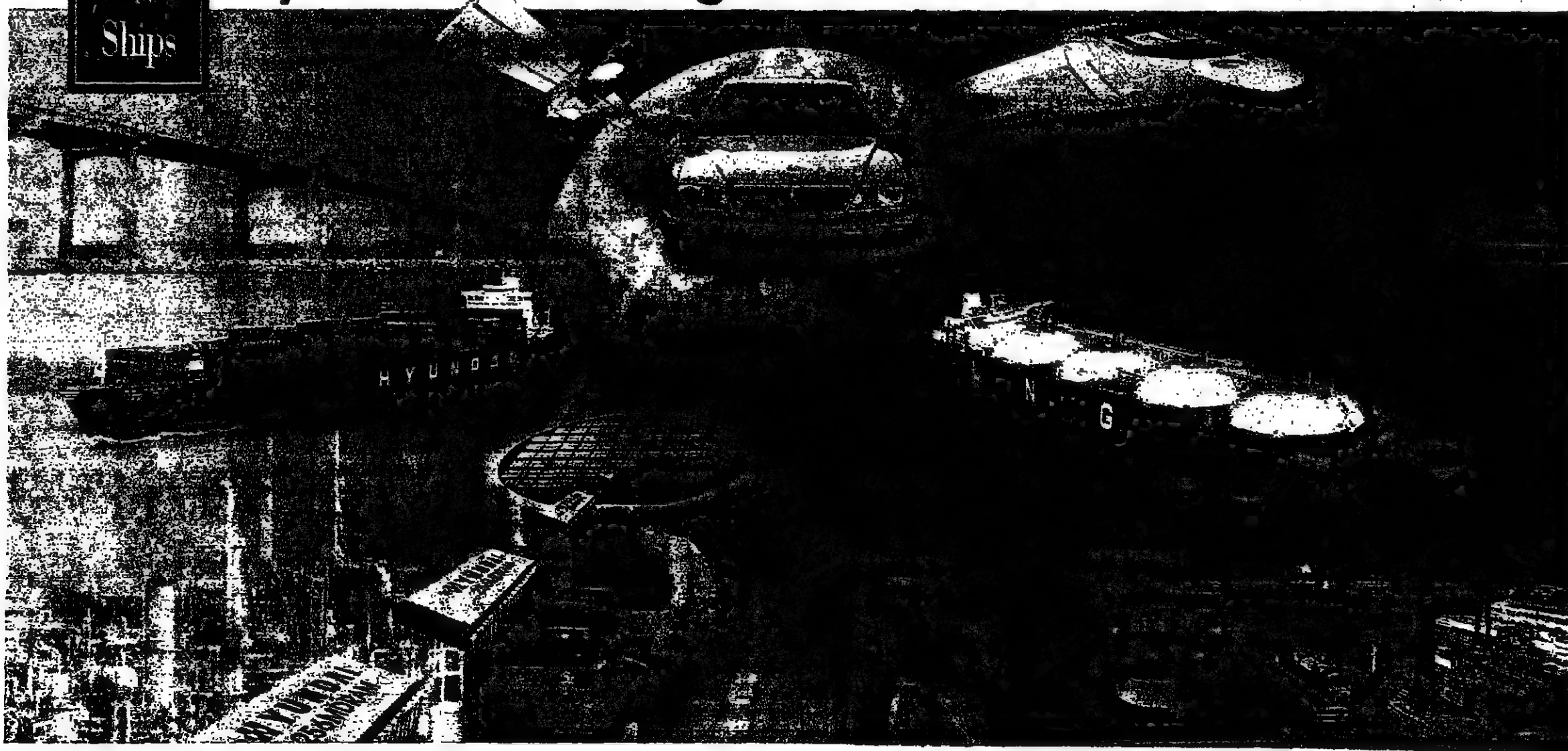
Writing to the Commission on the Regulation of Privatised Utilities, an inquiry set up by the Hansard Society and European Policy Forum pressure groups, Lord Borrie says that regulation of the utilities would be strengthened if a new Regulatory Commission was created with industry-specific component divisions.

Lord Borrie, a former head of Labour's Social Justice Commission, says: "Several objectives of the regulators are common. Let them gain strength by being brought together."

Some industry regulators have attracted sharp criticism for their actions, but Lord Borrie says that, under a single regulatory body, there would be a "check on individual excess or waywardness".

The former OFT head also supports the idea that more mergers of regulated utilities ought to be subject to mandatory reference to the MMC — especially those crossing different industries.

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Limited company status would pave way for high street links

# PPP aims to expand healthcare base

By PATRICIA TEHAN  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PPP, the private healthcare insurance group, will today confirm plans to turn itself into a £500 million limited company owned by a trust company with the twin aims of supporting the business and a new healthcare charity trust.

The firm currently has provided status which means that it has no technical owner. Under its current structure, PPP is a company without shares, limited by guarantee. It has a board of 11 directors

who sit on a board of 25 appointed governing members whose liability is limited to one guinea (£1.05) each.

PPP confirmed yesterday one of the main reasons for seeking to change the structure was to explore different distribution channels to widen the availability of its services. It is believed to be keen to establish some sort of presence in the high street, probably by linking up with a bank or building society.

A PPP spokesman said the new structure would give it the flexibility to investigate other

methods of distribution. He said: "Distribution covers a whole range of issues, whether it is looking at more traditional routes for the distribution of insurance-based products or finding new ways of taking healthcare to people, which is our preferred route." It could encompass "anything from distribution using the Internet, high street branches or home shopping".

The change in structure will allow the firm, for the first time, to attract equity from external sources. This means that when opportunities occur,

PPP will be able to issue new shares to a single investor or a group of investors.

John Reizenstein, the SBC Warburg director who acted as financial adviser, said: "In making this change the aim is to give greater transparency and also to issue shares." At the same time, he said the firm intended to continue with its existing business objectives and to have a charitable ethos.

PPP has suffered as competition in the healthcare insurance market has intensified. New competitors such as Norwich Union, Guardian Royal

Exchange, Standard Life and Legal & General have grabbed a 20 per cent market share, with NU taking 10 per cent in just five years.

The firm said a flotation was "not currently under consideration", although its new structure will make it a possibility. The change in structure requires approval from the Department of Trade and Industry, but the company expects it to be completed by May. Letters have been sent out to customers to notify them of the change and give them the opportunity to express any con-

cerns in writing to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Under the planned changes, PPP healthcare foundation limited, a charitable foundation, will be created. It will have the same board and appointed members as the old PPP.

Alongside the charitable foundation, PPP will set up PPP healthcare medical trust, a medical charity. The foundation will initially own 100 per cent of PPP healthcare group. Each of its businesses will operate as 100 per cent-owned subsidiaries.

GILT-EDGED

## Inflationary fears appear misplaced

Before the last election, devaluation was inevitable, whoever won. Then, sterling's ERM parity was unsustainable. This time a key issue is whether inflation is on the agenda, whoever wins.

Underlying worries about the inflation outlook have reappeared. Evidence of this appeared last week in a Reuters survey of 35 organisations, showing an expected year-end ten-year gilt of 7.73 per cent. By contrast, I expect yields to fall to 6.5 per cent by then. Even though the UK can enjoy modest growth, inflation should remain low. If it did not, then Britain would be bucking the global trend of low inflation.

There are three market inflation fears. First, there is the concern that inflation pressures may already be in the pipeline. Similar concerns surfaced a few years ago when commodity prices rose. But then a strong global disinflationary pressure, which contributed to sluggish domestic demand, meant retailers and producers had to keep prices down. These same competitive pressures are still with us. But now the concern is accelerating monetary growth. M4 is rising at an annual rate of 10.1 per cent. The fear is that if this remains strong it will eventually be spent, triggering inflation. Although M4 needs to be monitored, it is premature to conclude this.

Nearly half — £22.9 billion — of the £55.8 billion rise in M4 last year was by "other financial institutions". Their holding of money is dictated mainly by rates of return, and so this amount is unlikely to be used for higher spending on goods and services.

Half — £28.1 billion — of last year's rise in M4 was in individuals' deposits. This compares with annual consumer spending in the economy of about £430 billion. Many factors explain this increase in deposits. Some households may have increased their precautionary savings; others may need higher deposits to get a mortgage. There has also been a boost from building society mergers, although that money is as likely to be saved as spent.

As interest rates fall, one would expect some, but not

As sterling has already fallen so far, it should remain relatively stable...

Britain's poor inflation track record means these risks need to be monitored. But, in my view, we remain in a disinflationary international environment. Thus, the near-term risks for the global economy are on the downside, with the US and Continental Europe slowing sharply. For the UK to experience the inflation some people in the gilt market are fearing requires such a boom in domestic demand that it is unlikely.

Bond markets in the US and on the Continent are benefiting from sluggish growth, low inflation and tight fiscal policies. This points to interest rates acting as the shock absorber, with US rates likely to fall from 5.25 per cent to 4.75 per cent, and the German discount rate set to hit a historic low of 2 per cent this year. As sterling has already fallen so far, it should remain relatively stable in this environment, allowing base rates to fall to 5.5 per cent in response to low UK inflation.

GERARD LYONS  
DKB International

## Lang to sign car industry agreement with China

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

IAN LANG, president of the Board of Trade, will today sign an agreement with China on future co-operation in the car industry in the hope of creating opportunities for joint ventures and local manufacturing for British car and component companies in the rapidly growing Chinese market.

China is expected to become the world's largest car market by 2005. The value of new business for components is likely to be £6 billion, and £24 billion for service parts, the Department of Trade and

Industry said. China's policy of building up a domestic manufacturing base means few opportunities for exporting British-built cars.

Car production in China rose an estimated 15 per cent to 227,900 units from January to September 30 last year. It has a policy of encouraging any foreign carmaker's setting up local production to also build up an associated components sector.

According to the memorandum of understanding which Mr Lang and He Guangyuan, China's Minister of Machine Industry, will sign today, a working group will be set up. It will include representatives from both of their ministries, from the China Association of Automotive Manufacturers and from Britain's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

The group hopes to promote the exchange of information and personnel in all areas of the industry, and will recommend candidates for co-operative projects. It will hold annual or six-monthly meetings, alternating between Britain and China. The first will be held in China.

IAN AMERICAN trade negotiation team is due in Peking this week for talks with Chinese officials on the year-old anti-piracy agreement, which the United States accuses China of failing to enforce. Washington could impose trade sanctions and block Peking's bid to join the World Trade Organisation if China failed to live up to promises to protect intellectual property rights. Peking attacked the accusations as unjustifiable in the light of its efforts to combat piracy.

## Brick sale at Redland is an 'option'

REDLAND, the building materials company, will tell the stock market today that the sale of its brick division is an "option", but that it has made no firm commitment about its future at this stage (Alasdair Murray writes).

Speculation has grown that Redland is seeking to offload its brick division to raise capital to expand its core roof-tile business in the Far East. But Redland insists the sale is just one conclusion from its recently completed strategy review and that it has not entered talks with potential buyers.

Last month Redland gave warning that its overall profits would fall this year. The brick division performed especially badly with a 14 per cent drop in volumes.



Team spirit: Bethan Raggatt, left, and Sue Carr, the British Women's 470 sailing team at this year's Olympics, with Nigel Rudd, of Williams Holdings, which owns Yale, their sponsor

## DTI fosters Games plan

MANCHESTER may have lost its bid to stage the 2000 Olympics, but British companies are hoping to grab a slice of the Games action (Rachel Bridge writes).

Colin Moylan, former Minister for Sport, who has been appointed chairman of the Sydney Olympics UK Business Task Force, arrives in Sydney on Wednesday in a bid to persuade Australian

companies to enter into joint ventures with British companies on Olympic projects. The task force has been set up by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Although Sydney's Olympics organising committee is committed to awarding major contracts to Australian companies, the task force believes there is scope for British companies to provide exper-

tise in areas that Australian companies may lack. In total about A\$2.3 billion (£1.4 billion) will be spent on staging the Games and several big contracts have yet to be awarded.

The task force aims to focus on developing partnerships in areas such as infrastructure, design and security, where it believes British companies have relevant skills to offer.

## Pay survey rules out any surge

A pay settlement analysis published today by Industrial Relations Services (IRS) says that any threat of a surge in wage deals is receding.

IRS, the independent wage analyst, surveyed January pay settlements and suggests that "far from soaring, pay deals are unlikely to rise decisively above the 3.5 per cent mark over coming months".

With most analysts forecasting only modest economic growth and falling headline inflation, leading to some of the key upward pressures on pay subsiding, IRS says, "it would be wise not to completely rule out a marginal downturn in settlements".

It concludes: "Fears of an inflationary surge in settlements, most strongly expressed by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, in a recent radio interview, will in our view prove somewhat exaggerated".

## Islamic fund

Robert Fleming, the international investment bank, is to launch an investment fund specifically tailored for Islamic investors. Oasis fund shares are listed in Luxembourg.

The fund, which will have a minimum \$50,000 investment, will have a Sharia supervisory board to ensure that the diversified portfolio of international equities will conform with Islamic law. For example, the fund will exclude companies in the gambling or alcoholic drinks sectors.

## Welsh card

Midland Bank is launching the first bilingual Welsh-English credit card today. Welsh card customers will receive two cards for a combined account, both featuring the Welsh language with an English translation below. The Welsh card carries no fee for the first year and is subject to an annual £12 charge thereafter. More than half the people in Wales are said to want wider use of their language.

## Freepages building up to listing

FREEPAGES GROUP, a private company that operates as a freephone classified information provider, is to seek a listing on the Alternative Investment Market for smaller and growing companies.

The company is coming to the market via a reverse takeover of Blagg, the building supplies company. It is expected to have a market capitalisation of about £44 million when AIM dealings get underway on February 27.

Under the agreement, Blagg is acquiring Freepages for £30 million, to be satisfied through

the issue of 250 million new Blagg ordinary shares. On completion, Blagg will delist from the main market and switch to the AIM, a parallel placing and open offer of new shares at 12p each, underwritten by Singer & Friedlander, will raise £10 million.

The funds will be used to cut borrowings and provide working capital. At the same time, Blagg's building merchants business, trading as G. Blagg, is to be sold for £100,000.

Nigel Robertson, the founder of Freepages and a principal shareholder since

the business was incorporated, becomes chief executive. The non-executive chairman will be Ronald Zimet, president of Investment Management & Finance, an asset management organisation based in Geneva.

Financial results for 1994 and 1995, a development period for the business, showed losses of £961,000 and £1.9 million respectively. There is no profit forecast for the current year.

While the arrival of Freepages was welcome news for the AIM, which has at-

tracted 126 companies since its inception in June 1995, there was a setback when Satellite Communications Systems gave warning that losses for the year to December 31 would be higher than expected. This was attributed to delays in the installation of its satellite receiving equipment.

Revenues for 1996 will also be lower than indicated in the flotation prospectus. The shares fell 8p to 98p, against a placing price of 125p in September 1995.

MICHAEL CLARK

## FOREIGN RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.11	1.95
Austria Sch	16.93	15.43
Belgium Fr	49.58	45.35
Canada \$	2.194	2.034
Cyprus Cyp£	0.768	0.763
Denmark Kr	9.37	8.57
Finland Mk	7.50	6.85
France Fr	8.19	7.54
Germany Dm	2.48	2.21
Greece Dr	392.00	388.00
Hong Kong \$	12.29	11.39
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	6.1800	4.5100
Italy Lira	2505.00	2380.00
Japan Yen	178.90	160.80
Malta	0.592	0.587
Netherlands Gld	2.690	2.490
New Zealand \$	10.48	9.88
Norway Kr	245.50	227.00
Portugal Esc	ref.	5.30
Spain Ptas	197.50	184.50
Sweden Kr	11.20	10.40
Switzerland Fr	1.89	1.81
Switzerland Sfr	1.89	1.81
Switzerland Sfr	1.89	1.81
Switzerland Sfr	1.89	1.81

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

## CHANGE ON WEEK

	US dollar	German mark	Exchange index
1.5190 (+0.0162)			
2.2584 (+0.0170)			
83.7 (+0.6)			

Bank of England official close (4pm)

## STOCK WATCHING

	FT 30 share	FT-SE 100	New York Dow Jones	Tokyo Nikkei Ave	20904.03 (+240.19)
2784.8 (+18.5)					
3781.3 (+48.6)					
5373.99 (+102.24)					

## WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 32

Q130800N  
(c) A lad, boy or young chap. 101e Anticlimax and mispronunciation of the French *garçon*. It conveys a sense of ludicrousness, no doubt because of its echo of other silly words ending in -oon, such as *loon*, *goon*, *Walloon* and *Stone of Scone*. A suitable word, therefore, for an adult wishing to address a young male person — particularly a waiter — patronisingly.

PROCELOUS  
(a) Stormy, tempestuous, the adjective from the Latin *procellosus* a storm. "What sort of mood is he in?" you are asked by the next candidate waiting for interview by the Human Resources Executive Manager. "Procellosus, distinctly procellosus," you reply, with a reassuring smile.

BUNDOBUST  
(b) Arrangements, organisation. Anglo-Indian slang brought to England by the Indian Army and ICS. From the Hindi *bund-o-bast*, meaning "tying and binding". This must be a poetic trade name for a company: The Bundobust Removals and Storage Company.

VAUL  
(c) Jargon of rocketry. To deviate from a stable course because of oscillation about the longitudinal axis. You could try this word on the traffic police, I suppose, when invited to blow into their little bag: "It's not what you think, Officer. I am distinctly not drunk. I'm just suffering from yaul, and therefore deviating from a stable course because of oscillation about my longitudinal axis."

## SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1...Nd3? 2.Qxc7 Bxd3 3.Kh1 Nac1 and mate follows on g2.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET											
Mid cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Why +/-	Yld %	P/E	Mid cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Why +/-	Yld %	P/E
16.00	AMCO Corp	112	+ 3	3.0	12.3	29.00	Lon Factory	3	+ 1	..	..
1.47	Abacus Recruit	12	..	..	..	1.63	London Town	66	..	..	..
18.40	A de Gruy	12	..	5.8	10.4	12.30	Lorier Corp	219	+ 10	2.2	..
12.90	African Gals	12	+ 3	..	..	10.50	Mam & O'Sean	18	- 3	..	..
4.83	Altamira & Bd	22	..	..	..	43.10	Megalomedia	100	- 7	..	..
11.50	Alpha Devel	22	+ 2	..	..	14.00	Megalomedia Wts	85	- 7	..	..
37.80	Ann St Brewery	355	- 15	5.5	11.8	5.57	Mellor	88	..	..	36.3
5.30	Ann St Div Pl	835	..	8.9	..	277.10	Memory Corp	458	+ 50	..	..
78.90	Antony	111	+ 3	..	..	6.04	Metropole Films	21	..	3.0	..
11.70	Art Central	70	..	..	..	14.00	Metropole	185	+ 17	..	..
1.05	Atterbury Trust	70	..	..	..	1.05	Mitochondria	0.4	..	..	..
6.28	Balfour & Co	6	..	..	..	19.60	Multimedia	66	..	2.4	16.4
4.82	Bank Hedges	18	..	..	..	25.50	NHF Grp	340	+ 35	2.4	16.4
4.52	Bellman	48	..	..	..	7.10	Nash (Wm)	3.9	..	2.2	16.2
0.95	Bowens Lala	140	..	..	..	6.46	Neill Clark	355	..	2.3	..
7.00	Brown Lts Div Pl	70	..	..	..	5.71	Nelson Cobbold	208	..	..	..
5.02	Brascello Heds	50	..	..	..	7.00	Norfolk	70	..	..	..
26.00	Brookside	310	..	2.5	31.0	7.00	Norwich	70	..	..	..
0.94	CCI Hedges	110	..	..	..	8.36	Nova Petim	73	..	..	..
0.13	CCI Founder Shs	110	..	..	..	0.13	Nova Petim Wts	73	..	..	..
3.00	Cale Inns	108	..	2.4	8.6	17.00	Nova Petim Wts	116	..	1.3	33.4
7.15	Calsonic Tel	70	- 5	..	8.5	11.00	Old English Pub	92	..	1.4	..
13.50	Card Clear	60	- 1	..	..	15.18	Omnica	89	- 5	2.2	14.0
3.72	Cassidy Bros	68	..	5.5	9.7	13.30	Pacific Med Pl	92	- 2	..	..
1.97	Cassidy W F	68	..	..	21.8	13.20	Pen Andean Res	32	+ 6	..	..
5.28	Catalan Group	110	..	..	..	4.65	Pen Andean Res	118	..	..	..
17.50	Cellic	6750	..	..	..	88.80	Per City	365	- 30	..	..
15.80	Cellic Pl Shs	117	+ 8	2.8	15.0	28.80	Polynesian Pharms	144	- 15	..	..
15.80	Cellic Pl Shs	117	..	..	..	3.62	Preston Nth E	400	..	..	..
7.25	Charwell Ltd	66	..	..	..	1.13	Revelation Plocody	105	..	..	..
13.10	ChitPartners	31	..	..	..	1.17	Rushmore Wines	17	..	..	..
12.20	Com de Pti Fin	510	..	2.6	16.3	0.38	Rushmore Wines	17	..	..	..
7.59	Constar Tel	38	- 2	..	12.4	0.09	Rush Wm Wts	1	+ 4	..	..
11.50	Constar Tel	80	- 1	..	..	10.10	SCS Satellite	98	- 20	..	..
2.57	Coty Gals Pl	70	..	9.5	..	5.12	Scotwood Inds	23	+ 3	5.6	..
35.80	Cross Int	99	- 3	..	..	13.40	Scotwood Inds	23	+ 2	..	..
14.60	Crown Products	55	+ 2	..	..	3.21	Self Sealing	55	..	5.8	11.4
11.20	D&S Management	165	- 10	4.5	6.7	13.40	Silbom	55	..	..	..
3.58	David Glass	86	..	5.5	9.4	66.50	ShyPharm	3	..	..	..
51.70	Dawson Heds	1130	+ 20	3.4	70.2	129.50	Southern News	549	+ 8	3.5	15.3
3.50	Dean Corp	12	+ 1	..	..	51	Southern News	51	..	..	..
14.30	Drivak	158	- 15	..	..	75.30	Shankland Res	410	- 115	..	..
10.20	Electronics Int	125	..	..	..	14.90	Surrey Fr Inns	148	+ 8	17	17.3
5.62	Gen Sales Pl	125	..	..	..	42.60	TRACER Netwk	805	- 30	..	..
3.18	Fin Puts	135	+ 20	..	..	5.15	Tale Cred Wts	38	..	..	..
20.00	Financ	158	- 12	..	73.1	17.30	Tale Cred Wts	38	- 5	..	..
8.12	Financ	283	+ 6	0.5	19.5	Trinity Care Pl	180	..	1.0	..	..
15.80	Fonsecan	150	- 10	1.7	19.5	228.00	Trinity Care Pl	180	+ 2	..	..
4.75	Furlong Homes	95	+ 2	3.2	5.1	8.15	Utd Auctions	458	..	1.1	..
26.70	Gander Heds	94	+ 1	..	78.9	35.70	Versailles Gp	137	+ 20	..	22.0
5.40	Grentheds	145	..	3.4	13.1	6.00	Vestman	200	+ 25	..	..
32.40	Gulton	145	- 2	..	..	12	Walsby	232	- 1	..	..
3.67	Harsco	26	..	0.3	13.1	14	Walden Wm Wts	5	..	..	..
56.80	Hiscox Inds Ins	125	..	..	..	4.90	Western Selectn	14	..	55.7	..
10.50	Indpt Radio	108	..	..	..	2.91	Westmount Engr	31	+ 5	..	..
14.70	Inner Workings	88	..	..	..	6.78	Whester M Mid	51	+ 3	..	..
22.00	Intl Greetings	523	+ 20	1.2	..	Wynnstay Props	245	..	..	..	..
3.57	Jasmin	90	+ 5	2.7	20.8	26.30	Zargo	185	- 5	..	..
18.30	Jewmoss Bros	200	..	..	..						
41.00	KS Borealis	110	- 5	..	..						
25.70	Lancashire Enterprises	142	+ 2	3.6	..						
14.30	Lumaca	235	..	0.8	..						
53.70	Lumaca Group	2750	..	3.2	14.0						
48.90	La Richer Shs	282	+ 2	6.8	27.6						
	Lithome As Ten	95	..	..	..						



Nerves are tingling in the high street. On Friday, Hanson announced that it would close six out of ten of the Powerhouse electrical shops, shedding 2,300 jobs, mostly of the old-fashioned full-time variety. The old electricity board showrooms are following the late Rumbelows as retailing concentrates even further and shifts out of town. Yet life is hardly a bed of roses for gainers such as Dixons and Kingfisher's Comet, any more than for the all-conquering superstores.

Ten days ago, Sainsbury warned its shareholders of its first fall in profit in 20 years as a public company. So big are Sainsbury and Tesco that they are there to be shot at. To retain their more affluent customers, they must continuously innovate and improve service. To keep the cost-conscious, they must discount basic ranges. Costs are under pressure.

Not long ago, however, the sort of consumers who expect tax relief for nannies were complaining bitterly at the ever higher net profit margins the big groups were making, blaming them for environmental ills and demanding protection for the high streets whose business they were taking. Price controls, to be enforced by Ofshop's director-general of food distribution, did not reach the political agenda. But regulation was in the air. It has crystallised in rules on new out-of-town development to protect high streets. In reality, the retail trade is one of the great

## Don't let regulation stifle the voice of market forces



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

success stories of competition. A new Hobart Paper, inspired when Mr Grouse was in full cry, explains why an unregulated market worked so well for most consumers, if not for shop workers, society or the countryside.

Mighty as the big four grocers became, reinforced by the monopoly profits earned from their brand names, competitors could always challenge them. When big groups took the yuppie era too seriously, discounters at home and abroad took their chance, just as the early Tesco brought the market stall to the high street 40 years ago.

High streets could fight back, too, if shops join with local councils to mimic the management of £6 billion groups. In the long run, they will succeed only if they bring consumers back by choice. That means welcoming cars, making shopping more fun and more secure — and slashing rents.

In retailing, better service and lower prices have gone hand in hand with greater concentration, high margins and super-normal profits. Groups such as Marks & Spencer in clothing and Sainsbury in food can charge relatively low

prices but still make "monopoly" profits because they improve cost efficiency continually and use their market power to capture much of the extra efficiency they force on to manufacturers. Food retailing is now highly concentrated. About half sales are made by four groups. But that concentration has been arrived at by free competition. Super-normal profits depend on continuous innovation and heavy investment.

The drawbacks of monopoly power are nothing to the benefits of the market forces that created it. Imagine what would have happened if critics had succeeded in treating supermarkets as semi-utilities. If

Ofshop controlled prices, it would have stifled competition and innovation, returning paradoxically to the stagnant days of retail price maintenance. If it controlled profit margins, or return on capital, it would have stifled investment. If it zoned locations, it would have preserved the old miseries of a wet winter Saturday on the high street.

Sadly, you do not need to imagine these well-intentioned ills. You can see them today in the battle over regulation of telecommunications. BT achieved its monopoly by state intervention, not competition. But after a dozen years of intense regulation in the private sector, aimed at creating a fully competitive market, it is fair to assume that BT's continuing dominance now owes something to its competitive performance. Entry is so open that virtually any American phone company worth its salt is in the UK wired market and there is plenty of competition in wireless telephony.

To Ofel, however, BT's dominance will always be an affront. It is deemed harmful in itself (per se) as American theorists have it, evidence that Ofel must redouble its efforts to regulate. It has stopped BT entering

the entertainment market, making it uneconomical to invest in a national information superhighway. Now Ofel wants BT to give plenty of advance notice of any new services, so that competitors can respond straight away. It is hard to imagine any greater deterrent to innovation by BT or a more numbing disincentive to innovation by its competitors.

Ofel also assumes BT's super-normal returns are malign monopoly profits, rather than the natural product of a growing market and its own response to competitive pressure. It therefore plans to slash BT profits by imposing even bigger annual price cuts. At the last regulatory round, Ofel assumed BT would have to cut costs to the best international levels to maintain returns. That damaged Mercury, then the main competitor, so badly that it has retrenched and lost hope of ever rivaling BT. If Ofel now slashes returns that can be made at low costs, it will dish newer competitors too. They will no longer find it worth investing heavily. Regulation will again entrench BT's dominance, but slash its ability to invest.

Stephen Littlechild, the much-criticised power regulator, realised that competition will only grow if profits are worth chasing. There is still time to stop this Ofel nonsense before the spectre of a cheerless, profitless old high street overtakes another regulated industry. \* *Trouble in Store, by Terry Burke and J.R. Shackleton, published by the Institute of Economic Affairs.*

Sarah Bagnall finds Tesco's streamlined goods inwards system paying off handsomely

## Squaring an endless delivery cycle

Given so little latitude to raise prices without losing sales to competitors, Britain's supermarket groups are left with little option but to scrutinise every aspect of their cost bases in a bid to lift profits and margins.

About 18 months ago, in the search for cost savings, retailers started to focus on the seemingly simple process of moving products from the manufacturer to the retailer's distribution depots and then to the customer. They ruthlessly attacked the system of transporting products from depots to stores, injecting greater efficiency and reaping substantial cost savings.

According to Tesco, the same number of vehicle trips now deliver three times the volume of produce to their stores daily, and fuel consumption is down by almost a fifth. But the process of shifting goods from the manufacturer to the depots was left alone.

The reason was simple. The first stage of a good's movement, called "primary distribution", fell to the individual suppliers to organise. But attention has now begun to switch to primary distribution, with Tesco leading the way.

At first glance, primary distribution could be considered as interesting as watching bread defeat, but the implications of its manage-



Jam session: a Tesco transport initiative should cut the number of vehicles used to distribute goods by 25 per cent

ment are far-reaching and often provoke outbursts of invective from the public.

A common feature of Britain's motorways is the seemingly endless stream of swerving lorries. Country lanes and villages are plagued by thundering trailers racing along in their quest to drop off

that day's supplies of kippers and lettuce to supermarket groups' distribution depots scattered around the country.

The situation is made markedly worse by the knowledge that many lorries are trundling around either empty or only half full.

David Smith, head of primary distribution at Tesco, says: "Each of our depots has an average of 200 lorries arriving each day, about 15 per cent of which are probably half empty when they set out from the supplier. Overall, about 30 per cent of all mileage travelled in this country is thought to be travelled empty."

The inefficiencies in the system are mainly the fault of the system itself. The short lifespan of many items means that supermarkets demand fresh stock on a daily basis and manufacturers are almost constantly on the move in a never-ending delivery cycle. The result is that manufacturers supplying a limited line on a national basis often embark on their journeys with surplus space and then make the return journey empty-handed.

In principle, the burden of the transport bill rests with the supplier but in reality these costs are added to the price charged to the retailer for the

products. It is this that has spurred Tesco into action.

The supermarket group is overhauling the outmoded system, in a move that is expected to save millions of pounds as well as produce the welcome by-product of markedly cutting the number of lorries on Britain's roads, as well as pollution levels.

Typically, every day about 2,500 lorries head for Tesco's 22 distribution depots, which are as far apart as Livingston outside Edinburgh and Chesham in Oxfordshire. Arriving in predetermined half-hour slots, the lorries offload at one depot and then dash to the next and then the next.

On the face of it the idea seems so simple and the benefits immediately tangible. In theory, fewer lorries are needed so transportation costs fall and there is more latitude for suppliers to cut the prices they charge to Tesco.

While the benefits are apparent, the logistics of developing the system are fiendishly complex. One major factor for Tesco to consider is how it affects its non-Tesco business. If only the Tesco business is sub-contracted out, the supplier would have even less cargo to transport in its half-empty vans to other retailers. This could push prices up rather than down. As a result the haulage companies will also transport non-Tesco business.

Another complication is that haulage companies must be kept at strictly controlled temperatures. In all there are seven

temperature regimes: frozen; zero for foods such as fresh meat and fish; plus three degrees for produce such as apples; plus ten for other produce including exotic fruits; plus 15 for bananas, bread and other items; and ambient for goods such as baked beans, health and beauty products and clothing.

Tesco has been trying out the system in Cornwall, Yorkshire and East Anglia. The trials were all conducted for zero-temperature goods as this was considered the most difficult to manage. "This is a very sensitive area. We are dealing with factory finished products and the temperature range at which they can be moved and held is very narrow," says Mr Smith.

In the case of Yorkshire, Tesco has 13 suppliers and although they are not small businesses the volumes they supply to Tesco are relatively small and often result in surplus lorry space.

This has all changed. Under the new system, Reed Boardall, an independent haulage company, collects the goods from the 13 suppliers, assembles orders in a consolidating warehouse, then delivers them in full lorries to Tesco depots. Tesco calculates that as a result of using lorries to their full capacity, the number needed to carry the goods could be cut by as much as 25 per cent.

Currently about 10 per cent of Tesco's total volume is managed through the new system but by the end of the year the figure could rise to 50 per cent as more suppliers are grouped together.

Mr Smith believes that, if rival retailers undertake similar exercises, the savings to the industry will be significant. "It could reduce the industry's distribution costs by tens of millions of pounds and it would be great if it has the added by-product of halving the number of empty runs from the present level of 30 per cent, as well as reduce lorry numbers by 25 per cent," he says.

It is still early days but overhauling primary distribution underlines how retailers are an extremely desirable means for boosting profits and margins in what is one of the most competitive sectors of British industry.

## Good-bye battery



Seiko Kinetic®. The first and only quartz watch that generates its own energy from your every movement. The perpetual accuracy of quartz — naturally, without a battery. Its tiny powerhouse converts even your slightest movement into electrical impulses. Ecologically sound and ultimately reliable. Seiko Kinetic is so efficient that you only need to wear it for one day to ensure enough energy reserves to last at least a week. Wear it continually and it will never let you down. It's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way.

SEIKO KINETIC

### Still seeking the third 'man'

EXECUTIVE headhunters Whitehead Mann suggest it could be some time before white smoke appears from the Stock Exchange signalling that a new chief executive has been elected.

But I am assured that the post is not the preserve of a male, nor does the incumbent have to be British, though that might help. It was on January 4 that Michael Lawrence was suddenly dismissed from his post, since when Exchange chairman John Kemp-Welch has been holding additional reins. However, since Lawrence was the second chief executive to go within the

space of only two-and-a-half years, the Stock Exchange will want to ensure that the third "man" they appoint is likely to stay with them a bit longer.

### Big shot

MICHAEL ANDREW, whose 20 years in the City included positions with Merrill Lynch and Salomon Brothers before he "retired" last year, is returning to City life. During his nine-month sabbatical, Andrew took a refresher course at RADAR and shot two films, one for television called *Big Sister* and the other *The Therapist*. However, it was for his market talents that he has been headhunted by Furlong Asso-

ciates to join US investment bank Furlong Selz in London as senior managing director and manager of the London office. Staff can be assured he does not intend to introduce play reading at the office.

### Refining process

FEEL like jumping on gold's bandwagon but feel uneducated about the language gold buffs use? Help is at hand. The London Bullion Market Association has issued a booklet which explains what the market is all about. You, too, can then speak of "bull put spread", "exotic options", a "naked option", a "Goto" or a "butterfly in options". Never let it be said that gold isn't fun.

### Ode to Equitas

ROSS GOW, a former director of CT Bowring, writes the City Diary's Christmas ditty competition. A bottle of Champagne is on its way to him for *Ode to Equitas*. Our former leader, once a monk, Has seen the light and done a bunk. For greener pastures, bigger wage. Left Names hanging from a ledge. A rudderless ship, without direction, Broken Names flag their Art collection. Once glamorous Mater snatched in mink. Now Peter's panned his last cuff-link.

## We, at least, are amused

Battling with the Past. Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.

Battling is too strong a word, really. I would call this panel game a series of harmless exchanges of blank cartridge fire. The target is Queen Victoria, and the triggers are pulled by four historians. When they cannot be absolutely positive about their facts (were Victoria and John Brown lovers?) they speculate entertainingly. Did the Queen's mother sleep with the Victorian equivalent of the milkman? Was Victoria really the only person in history to have an aggressively receding chin? Indisputably, it seems, she said, "We are not amused" only once, and that was when a venerable homosexual knight at a dinner party repeated a naughty tale specially for her benefit.

History Now and Then. Radio 3, 9.00pm.

There are five debates all told, one every night this week, all chaired by the social historian Roy Porter, and all based on the perspectives that either unite or divide historians. Tonight's launching debate brings together Professor Asa Briggs and Jeremy Black, both of whom have written highly praised social histories. Porter sets a provocative agenda for them. Generally, he says, historians take an overspecialised view of the past. They shy away from the broader picture. Myopia had become a positive historical virtue. Far from challenging his conclusion, his two guests suggest ways in which myopes can improve their vision if they are prepared to discount from their hobby horses.

Peter Daville

### RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00pm. Olive, Women 6.30. Chris Evans 6.30am. Simon Mayo, and the Golden Hour 12.00. Lisa Fiedler, including 12.30 The Village Chart Show 8.00. Nicky Campbell 4.00. Mark Goodier 7.00. Evening Session 9.00. In Concert: The Beautiful South 10.00. Mark Radcliffe. Midnight Wendy Lloyd.

### RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 4.00pm. Alex Lester 6.00. Sarah Kennedy 7.30. Wogan 9.30. Ken Bruce 11.30. Jimmy Young 2.00pm. Debbie Thompson 3.30. Ed Stewart 5.05. John Dunn 7.00. Hubert Gregg 7.30. Malcolm Laycock with Dance Band Dave, and at 8.00 Big Band Era 8.30. Big Special 9.00. Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00. Frank H. (1/3) 10.30. The Jamieson 12.00am. Digby Fairweather 1.00. Steve Madden 3.00-6.00. Alex Lester.

### RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports 6.00. The Breakfast Programme 6.55. 7.35 morning preview 8.35. The Magazine, incl at 10.35. EuroNews 11.30. News. Going Baroque 12.00. Midday with Mark, incl at 12.30pm. Moneyweek 1.15. Entertainment News 2.05. Russia on Five, incl at 3.05. Actually 3.45. Entertainment News 4.00. John Inverdale. Nationwide 5.40. Entertainment News 7.00. News. East 7.35. Great Scot! 8.05. The European Football Show 10.05. News Talk 11.00. Night Extra, incl at 11.15. The Planet. World Tonight 12.05. The Oliver Sacks. Midweek 2.05. Up All Night.

### TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Watt 7.00. Simon Bates 10.00. Jonathan King 12.00. Tommy Boyd 2.00pm. Anne Robinson 4.00. Scott Chisham 7.00. Ben Bolger 9.00. Mark Day 10.00. James White 1.00-6.00pm. Ian Collins.

### RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Vivaldi (Concerto in E minor); Bachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 1 in F); Chopin (Piano); 8.45 Am. (Overture, Arizones); Beethoven (Quartet in E flat, for piano and wind, Op 16); 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Verdi (Overture, Nabucco); Liszt (Chapelle de Guillaume Tell, Au lac de Wallenstadt); Années de pèlerinage; Puccini (Mare e terra, Macchia di Capri); Barber (Violin Concerto); 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Piers Burton-Page. Dufay (Ecclesie tribulation); Schubert (Allegro in A minor); Mussorgsky, orch Ravel (Pictures at an Exhibition); 11.30 Artist of the Week: Nancy Argenta, soprano, performs Handel (Crucifixion, trances amor); 11.22 Martin (Ballade for flute, strings and piano); Brahms (Violin Sonata in G); 12.00 Composers of the Week: Les Six. Olivier Messiaen introduces Poulenc (Asses modeste, Mouvements perpétuels); Auric (Three Intermèdes); Touloukian (Impromptu, Romance); Honegger (Chant de joie); Durey (Noël); Milhaud (Allegro); Poulenc (Rhapsodie "Noël"); 1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert, live from St John's, Smith Square, London. György Párk, violin, Ralph Krumpholtz, cello, Peter Frankl, piano, perform Mozart (Trio in C); Beethoven (Trio in C minor, Op 1 No 3); 2.00 Schoels. The Song Tree 2.15. Schoels. 2.25. Let's Move 2.45. First Steps in Drama 3.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Philharmonic under Van Pascal Tonder (1); 3.45 The Organ: Musical Instrument of the Age of Enlightenment. Early 20th-century German music; 4.30 Millionaires. Ian Carr on the piano, and composer Theodor Kutzer (1); 5.00 The Music Machine 5.15 In Time. Wolf (Auf einer Wanderung, Moritz Lieder); 5.30 The Music Machine. Op 10 No 2, Revolutionary; Brahms (Variations on a Theme by Haydn, St Antoni Choral); 7.30 Britten. Pina, Joan Rodgers, soprano, Malcolm Martineau, piano, perform Puccini, real Briton (Mad Scene, from Stabat Mater); 7.45 (It was in the early spring; Amid the din of the ball; The window, West I not a little band of grass); The Cuckoo; Britten (The Poet's Echo); Shostakovich (The Nursery); Shostakovich (Sailor); 9.00 History Now and Then. See Choice; 9.30 European Community. Beethoven Orchestra Leszky Roy Goodman performs works by Puccini, Mahler, Handel, Telemann, Fischer and Liszt; 10.45 Midweek. With Robert Sandall and Mark Russell; 11.30-12.00 Evening. A recital by the pianist Margaret Fingerhut; 1.00-2.00 Night School. Letterbox 1.20. Singing Together.

### RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only); 6.00 News Briefings, incl weather 6.10. Farming Today 6.25. Prayer for the Day 6.30. Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30. News 6.55, 7.25, 7.55. Weather 7.25, 8.25. Sports News 7.45. Thought for the Day 8.40. Letters from Over Here. Raymond Stiles, former American Ambassador to London, explores cricket and baseball 8.55. Weather 9.00. News 9.05. Start the Week. Among Melvyn Bragg's guests are flesh lecturer Jean Attchison, film director Kathryn Bigelow and cultural critic Stuart Hall; 10.00-10.30 News; Battling with the Past (FM only). See Choice; 10.00 Daily Service (LW only); 10.15 The Shepherd's tale (LW only); 10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray. Short story: A Picture in Florence, by Deborah Moggach; 11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-550 4444. Lines open from 10am; 12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25. Spent No Job Too Small. Last in the series of the minipod magazine 12.55. Weather 1.00. The World at One 1.40. The Archers (1) 1.55. Shipping Forecast 2.00. News; An Odd Body. Second of a four-part detective series by Sue Rockwell (1); 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor; 4.00 News 4.05. Kaleidoscope. Lynne Waller talks to the conductor Mark Wigglesworth; 4.45 Short Story: The Clock, by Michael Harding. Read by Birly Sweeney; 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55. Weather 6.00. News 6.30. Just a Minute (1); 7.00 The Archers 7.10. The Food Programme (1); 7.45 The Archers. Happy Depths of a Homophobe, by Peter Tegel. A lyrical study of male desire at a public hearing panel, with David Thorne, Philip Voss, David Thorne and Dominic Letts (1); 8.45 The National Trust Debates. Donald MacCormick chairs a discussion on the future of Britain's biggest charity (1); 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.55. Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lister; 10.45 Book at Bedtime: God Stood Up for Bastards. David Litch begins an eight-part reading of his autobiography; 11.00-11.30 Destinations (FM only). To Rough It or Fit It. Invariant discussions on travel themes. Alan Wainman and publisher Tony Wheeler discuss the relative merits of exotic exclusivity and downmarket tourism (1); 11.00 Education Matters (LW only). Judy Mary discusses culture in the curriculum; 11.30-12.00 The Water Gypsies (FM only) by A.P. Harbert. Last in the series (1); 12.00 News, incl 12.27am Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Reef, by Roman Gunesch. Reviewed by Brian Miller and read by Shw Grew (1); 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00. AM World Service.

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 89.2-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW 188 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1085. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Massey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson.



# The mysterious attraction of detective series

Sunday nights will not be the same again — or not, at least, for a long time. Most of you, I know, will be mourning the passing of the hugely popular *A Touch of Frost* (TV), which ended last night. But not me. Jack Frost, I am afraid to say, has always left me cold.

This indifference has three points of origin: a fact which, I realise, will be of similar indifference to the 17 million people who have watched in the last five weekends. But in the interests of stimulating debate and in the vague hope that I may not be entirely alone, I shall share them with you.

First, there is David Jason's neo-familiar performance as Frost, a policeman who has somehow inherited all the mannerisms of Del Trotter, but unfortunately none of the charm. Then there is Frost himself, an old-fashioned copper who believes in old-fashioned coppering — results first,

evidence later — and if someone can be bullied into a confession... well, so much the better.

The third objection is more of an irritation. It irritates me that the success of the series will once again vindicate ITV's low-risk, high-return approach to popular drama — stick the right star in just about anything and we'll watch it. Which is why we'll be watching Nick Berry, Robbie Coltrane and Jason until the Larkin cows come home. Now there's something to look forward to.

But having shared that, let us return to last night, which saw the series sign off with a story that not only contained some unplanned but unfortunate echoes from real life (pretty female students, stalkers, long-distance drivers among the suspects) but also bore a passing resemblance to a story from the last series of *Cracker*. But fair's fair — as far as I can recall, Fitz's crazed campus killer didn't

have a thing about mermaids, I'm sure I would have remembered. Frost's killer, however, did, which led to some memorable dialogue as the net closed: "If you son is a fruit-cake, Mrs Jarvis, I need to know about it."

But for all the shortcomings of a disjointed story (not to mention the strange disappearance of an entire subplot), I wouldn't have missed Jonathan Hyde for anything. Hyde is such a supremely sinister actor that he is nearly always cast as a red herring. But as Dr Keith Michaelson, the denim-shirted Lohario of the psychology department, he reached new heights.

Not only had he sexually harassed the victim just before she was pushed down the stairs, but his long-suffering wife attempted suicide the next day. Then, just when Frost broke into his office and

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

discovered Michaelson was the author of... *VIOLENT DEATH*, a huge volume with a title in helpful, easy-to-read block capitals. Did he do it? Don't be silly.

Last night also saw the last *Pie in the Sky* (BBC1), the passing of which really is reason for mourning. It took me a series or so to get used to Richard Griffiths's brilliantly understated performance as DI Henry Crabbe, the reluctant

policeman and part-time restaurateur, but now I am addicted.

Of course, the series bears absolutely no resemblance to real life, which is part of its Sunday night charm. Fresh from his triumph of nabbing the garden gnome gang last weekend, Crabbe spent last night hot on the trail of two Russian car thieves, which if nothing else provided an excuse for some good subtle jokes.

Bearing as it does, no relation to real life, this improbably robust policeman spends his life surrounded by improbably attractive women — at home by his wife Margaret (Maggie Stead) and the ever faithful Nicola (Samantha Janus) and at work by DS Cambridge (Bella Emehoro), whose wardrobe could never be described as "plain-clothes". All three give lovely performances, with Stead injecting the required steel to lift the restaurant end of things. At the police end those duties fall

to Malcolm Sinclair, who plays assistant chief constable Freddy Fisher. Sinclair provides the perfect foil for Griffiths, with a performance that teeters on the edge of parody, but never actually crosses it. His task was made easier last night by the arrival of Phyllis Logan who, as the ambitious but accident-prone Detective Superintendent Chalmers, cleverly consigned Lady Jane and Lowry to history. She was almost unrecognisable which, unless you are David Jason, is generally a good thing.

But undoubtedly the pick of the weekend's detectives was Wexford in *The Ruth Rendell Mysteries*, *Simisola* (ITV, Friday). Not having read Rendell's original, I don't know whether it is she or Alan Plater, its adapter, who should take the credit for a quite beautifully crafted script. It may wear its social

conscience rather too openly on its sleeve for some, but the moment when Wexford (George Baker), the great white liberal of the Kingsmarkham constabulary, fell into the "all black people look the same" trap was exquisitely constructed. This being Rendell, it was the "all black corpses look the same" trap, but the point was well made.

The latest Wexford is also technically outstanding, with precisely framed photography, meticulous sound (offices echo in that depressing way they do) and music that is used sparingly but creatively. With the story two-thirds done, two questions remain. Who or what is Simisola and why is one of the main suspects probably the prettiest jobcentre claims clerk you'll find this side of *Pie in the Sky*? But perhaps her looks are integral to the plot.

● Lynne Truss is on holiday

## WBC

6.00am Business Breakfast (60292)

7.00am BBC Breakfast News (91563)

9.00am Breakfast News Extra (424936)

9.20am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (332030)

9.45 Kilroy (3709874)

10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (374327) 12.00 News (Ceelex) (811211)

2.05pm Turnabout (s) (9675679)

2.30pm Going for a Song (28298)

1.00pm One O'Clock News (94650)

1.30 Regional News and Weather (7708476)

1.40 Neighbours (s) (3458583)

2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (9664414) 2.40 The Rockford Files (s) (414389)

3.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (s) (7070766) 3.55 Bogdan and Badger (s) (1595553) 4.10 Chipmunks Go to the Movies (s) (6073211) 4.35 (Ceelex) (s) The Gents from Down Under (7410737) 5.00 Newsround (Ceelex) (784771) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceelex) (1188777)

5.30 Neighbours (s) (Ceelex) (s) (907056) N.I.: 5.30 Inside Out (s) (850)

6.00pm One O'Clock News (Ceelex) (414)

6.30 Regional News magazines (768) N.I.: 6.30 Neighbours 6.57 Inside Out (s) (907056)

7.00pm Noel's Telly Years: Noel Edmonds presents the television nostalgia quiz. The year in question is 1984, when Gordon Kaye first said "Allo! Allo!". Tessa Sanderson won an Olympic gold medal. Keith Barron starred in *Duty Free*, and Chris Sieve plunged in at the Deep End (Ceelex) (s) (3989)

7.30 Watchdog: Anne Robinson presents the consumer magazine (Ceelex) (s) (850)

8.00 EastEnders: Frank's latest move creates more havoc for Pat and Roy. Robbie takes Carol shopping and David has a bone to pick with Rick (Ceelex) (s) (1124)

8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart: Turned Out Nice Again! It's a one-woman entertainment. Gary can't stand it. It's George Formby. When George turns up wanting to record Gary's latest song, Gary has to find a way to keep history intact (Ceelex) (s) (1124)

9.00pm One O'Clock News (Ceelex) regional news and weather (2834)

9.30 Panorama: The War on Fish. How will threatened fish stocks and fishermen survive? (Ceelex) (208211)

10.10 Film 9½ with Barry Norman. Includes a location report from the set of director Danny Boyle's *Transporters* (208200) N.I.: 10.10 Pipes and Drums 10.50 Film 9½ 11.20 Omnibus 12.00am Film: The Beguiled 1.55 Weather

10.40pm Omnibus: A Day on the Mountain (Ceelex) (s) (330853)

11.30 Film: That Summer of White Roses (1989) starring Tom Conti and Susan George. A life-guard at a remote Yugoslav bathing spot finds his job under threat when he has to save a young woman. When he does rescue a drowning man he finds himself the focus of unwanted interest. Directed by Rajko Grlic (553747)

1.10am Weather (1109780) WALES: 1.35 News headlines and weather (1109780)

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## WBC

6.00am Open University: Learning for All (210853) 6.25 Questions of Sovereignty (177129)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceelex and spring) (s) (8551582)

7.30 Singing in (Ceelex) (12058) 8.00 Blue Peter (s) (Ceelex) (s) (80143) 8.30 Songs of Praise from Wormwood Scrubs presented by Sir Harry Secombe (s) (Ceelex) (s) (1334414)

9.00 Daytime on Two Educational programmes Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (5684360)

2.00 Joshua Jones (s) (36794282)

2.10 Snooker: The Masters. Dougie Donnelly introduces coverage of the games between Peter Ebdon and Darren Morgan and David Roe v Andy Hicks. Includes News (Ceelex), regional news and weather at 3.00 and 3.55 (3990788)

6.00 Space Precinct: Futuristic police drama series created by Gary Anderson, starring Ted Shackelford, Rob Youngblood and Simone Bendix (Ceelex) (s) (349486)

6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century. Science-fiction adventure series (s) (487414)

7.30 Hidden Empire: More Lustrous Than Gold. A drama documentary about Seilhuia, a Chinese courtesan who was instrumental in bringing peace to the Chinese Empire in the dying years. But was she a heroine of the Boxer Rebellion or a traitor to her cause? (Ceelex) (s) (282)

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TESCO SHAKES UP  
DISTRIBUTION TO  
MAKE HUGE SAVINGS

# BUSINESS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5 1996

CAN MARKET FORCES  
ALONE KEEP  
RETAILERS IN LINE?

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COON



Graham Halsall, right, his brother Alan, second right, joint managing directors of David Halsall, with John Walker, left, and Tony Hyams of BZW Private Equity Investment, which has arranged a £5.25 million capital injection to aid expansion at the toy distributor. The firm, which serves Woolworths, Toys 'R' Us, and Asda, among others has a turnover of £31 million.

## Heat back on for directors at British Gas

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

INSTITUTIONAL shareholders are putting pressure on British Gas for a further boardroom shake-up that could result in the departure of Cedric Brown, the embattled chief executive.

Three non-executive directors, including Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, and Lord Walker, who was the government minister responsible for the privatisation of British Gas, are also under threat. British Gas executives are believed to be disappointed with the contribution the non-executives have made to the business, particularly Lord Walker's reluctance to consider the disposal of some assets.

British Gas, however, yesterday described the reports of internal strife as 'speculative'.

Shares have performed poorly over the past year as the company has lurched from one disaster to another. It also suffered a setback when the Government ruled out a consumer levy to enable the company to bail out of its take-or-pay gas contracts.

At the centre of the boardroom friction is the uneasy relationship between Richard Giordano, the chairman

whose three-year contract expires at the end of the year, and Mr Brown. It is understood that some shareholders have raised the spectre of blocking an extension to Mr Giordano's contract unless further reforms are made.

The recent boardroom shake-ups have been widely interpreted as bearing the stamp of Mr Giordano, leaving Mr Brown increasingly isolated as the only major remaining member of the British Gas old guard.

Roy Gardner, a contender for the chief executive's position, last month moved from financial director to take responsibility for renegotiating the take-or-pay contracts and for managing competition in the household market. Phillip Hampton was recruited from British Steel to become financial director, while John Wybrew was lured from Shell to take control of strategy planning and communications. Three other executive directors — Russell Herbert, Norman Blacker and Howard Dalton — were forced off the board last autumn.

Gas Service, page 36

## Single market at risk if EMU falters, says Santer

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS

THE European single market will probably collapse early next decade if there is any delay or deviation from the Maastricht plan to create a European monetary union by January 1999, according to Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, speaking at the weekend.

The blunt warning issued by Mr Santer, and political leaders from Germany and Belgium, reinforced the statement by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, on Friday that European integration had become a 'question of war and peace'.

In what appeared to be a concerted campaign to suppress doubts about the Maastricht process, before they got out of hand, Mr Santer joined

Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, and Wolfgang Schäuble, chairman of Germany's ruling Christian Democrat party, in saying that the creation of the single market was 'not an irreversible process'.

Speaking to an audience of senior businessmen at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, the three leaders used almost identical language to convey their stark message.

'The single market is not irreversible and those who believe that it is are mistaken,' said Herr Schäuble. 'Europe is first and foremost a political programme, not an economic programme. If we abandon what has been agreed at Maastricht, we cannot hold onto what has already been

achieved.' He added that any thought of delaying Maastricht was dangerous and counter-productive. Achieving monetary union 'is not a matter of time, it is a matter of will', he said.

Mr Dehaene's threat of protectionist barriers within Europe were even more explicit. 'My conviction is that without monetary union, the single market will not hold,' he said. 'Those who think the internal market is irreversible have illusions.'

'At the moment, we accept some of the consequences of competitive devaluations because we have the perspective of monetary union in 1999. But if we have no perspective of monetary union, countries which suffer from competitive devaluations will take measures that are completely contrary to the internal market to protect themselves.'

Mr Santer said that he fully agreed with the other two leaders' comments and added an explicit warning about the

consequences of delaying EMU beyond 1999. 'Any delay might mean that monetary union is never achieved,' he said. 'That would be a giant step backwards on the road to political union. I don't know whether the internal market would survive such a blow.'

Even Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commission vice-president, who is generally considered to be most committed to maintaining free trade, said that 'nothing in this world is irreversible' and added that 'monetary events could put pressure on the single market'.

However, in contrast to the other leaders, who said that the failure of EMU would lead to the re-erection of protectionist barriers, Sir Leon insisted that such pressures would only reinforce 'determination to defend the single market'.

Underlining the growing rift between the unqualified supporters of a single market and the European leaders who want to use it as a bargaining chip to achieve monetary union, Sir Leon said: 'The commitment to a single market is separate from the commitment to the single currency. The Commission's policy and the treaties are clear. Those countries which do not participate in monetary union are fully entitled to the benefit of the single market.'



Santer: blunt warning

## Deal near on Sears shoe shops

Sears is expected to reveal tomorrow that it has sold its Saxe and Carters shoe shop chains to Stephen Hinchcliffe, the Sheffield businessman behind Facia.

The 111-strong Saxe chain and the 124 Carters stores were put up for sale by Sears early last month as the group moved to reduce the number of its shoe chains.

## Hanson move

Hanson said yesterday that a special dividend was one of several options during the demerger process. Speculation is that a 12p sweetener may be added to the package.

## Stadium float

Stadium Group, the engineering company, says it intends to float in the next three months to raise £10 million, giving it a market capitalisation of £30 million.

## Carlton bid

Carlton, the media company behind the London and Midlands ITV franchises, is said to be preparing a £300 million bid for HTV, the Welsh company which has the West of England TV franchise.

## Executive bonus overhaul urged

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

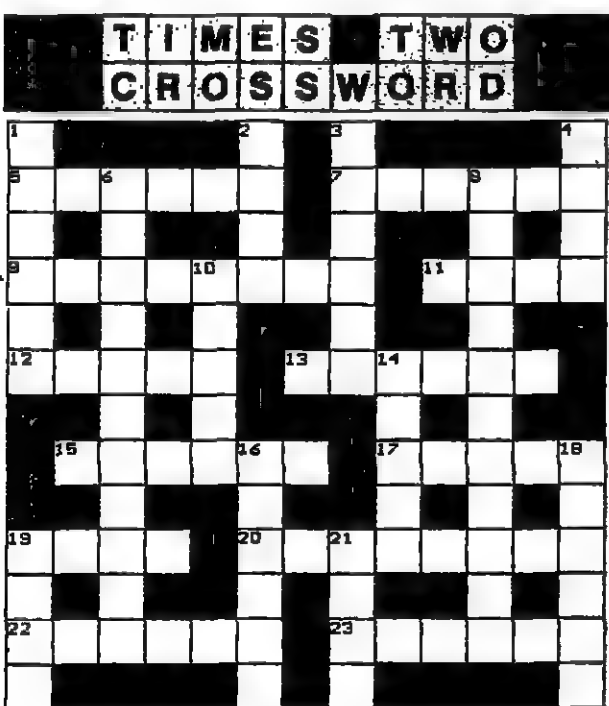
STANDARD LIFE, one of the country's leading investors, has called for a complete overhaul of executive bonuses to ensure senior managers are rewarded for 'outstanding performance not mediocrity'.

Guy Jubb, the insurer's corporate governance director, said that the directors of FT-SE 100 companies should set an example for the rest of the industry. 'We are committed to share ownership by executives but the scheme should motivate them to achieve outstanding results, not reward them for mediocrity,' he said.

Two FT-SE 100 quoted companies singled out by Standard Life are Carlton Communications, the media group in which the insurer has a 3 per cent stake, and BT. Standard Life has warned it will vote

against Carlton's plans for paying senior managers hundreds of thousands of pounds in bonuses. Selling its stake in Carlton was 'always an option', Mr Jubb added.

Michael Green, Carlton executive chairman, is understood to be in line for a £500,000 bonus on top of his basic salary of £450,000. Carlton executives could get a bonus in shares of up to 100 per cent of their basic salaries if their share price and dividends produce a total return within the top 25 of FT-SE companies over three years. Standard Life feels performance targets are too easy for the managers to achieve.



No 696

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                    | <b>DOWN</b>                      |
| 1 Popular music from Jamaica (6) | 1 Middleman (6)                  |
| 7 Wood left after sawing (6)     | 2 Fund-raising entertainment (4) |
| 9 Unthinking (reaction) (4-4)    | 3 Taker of bets (6)              |
| 11 Tiller (arch.) headpiece (4)  | 4 Stalks to stop (4)             |
| 12 Vertical part of stair (5)    | 6 Projection from poor data (11) |
| 13 Small, dainty (girl) (6)      | 8 Dispirited (11)                |
| 15 Gloomy; sombre; feeble (6)    | 10 Large drinking bowl (5)       |
| 17 Seaweed cast on shore (5)     | 11 Wiping cloth (5)              |
| 19 Catch, hitch (4)              | 16 Provide; find money for (6)   |
| 20 (Joke) fail to amuse (4-4)    | 18 Soldier's canvas holder (6)   |
| 22 Intelligent (6)               | 19 Pillage; dismiss; bag (4)     |
| 23 African country; old coin (6) | 21 Toboggan (4)                  |

**SOLUTION TO NO 695**  
ACROSS: 1 Duck 3 Unicorn 8 Dail 9 Cup Final 11 Ci de  
ocur 14 Tragic 15 Sup-go 17 Video nasty 20 Aquiline 21 Fat  
22 Reckless 23 Zest  
DOWN: 1 Dedicate 2 Criminal 4 Neuron 5 Off-punting  
6 Marx 7 Nell 10 Penicillin 12 Apostate 13 Polyglot 16 Vernal  
18 Fair 19 Hulk

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## Change expected in way jobless count reported

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government appears ready to introduce a new monthly measure of unemployment after a Whitehall report urging ministers to publish the total number of people out of work in Britain.

Currently it publishes the numbers that are out of work and claiming benefit. Dr Tim Holt, director of the Central Statistical Office, is expected to reveal details of the internal CSO report on unemployment figures when he appears before MPs next week to give evidence on the Government's jobless data.

Dr Holt, the Government's chief statistician, commissioned the report when he took

over at the CSO last year after a long and bitter public argument over the validity of the Government's unemployment figures, which Labour claimed were 'fiddled'.

The report is understood to recommend publishing, in tandem with the monthly claimant count, a monthly total of the numbers out of work drawn from the Government's Labour Force Survey. Currently, the LFS — a survey of a rolling sample of 60,000 households — publishes unemployment figures, based on the internationally-acceptable International Labour Office standard, every three months. Ministers calculate that

moving to a monthly LFS could add an extra £10 million to its costs, which they claim is unjustifiable at a time of tight public spending restraints. They are also concerned that the public may be confused if two counts of unemployment are published every month. □ Long-term unemployment should be tackled by a new temporary work scheme, which would create 500,000 jobs at an annual cost of £1.7 billion, according to the Institute for Public Policy Research think-tank today. The IPPR says that the scheme would be cost-effective and would make the long-term unemployed 'stakeholders in society'.

## Greener Tesco saves £12m

TONY WHITE



Clean sweep: the recycling plant at Snodland, Kent

TESCO's plan to recycle hundreds of thousands of tonnes of cardboard and plastic each year gather momentum on Friday when the second of nine planned recycling units opens (Sarah Bagnall writes). The nine recycling service units, run by Christian Salvesen, will create 700 jobs and give Tesco annual savings of at least £12 million. On Friday Sir John Stanley, MP for Tonbridge & Malling, and Dame Peggy Fenner MP, chair of the all-party Retail Industry Group, will open the 77,000 sq ft unit at Snodland, Kent. Cardboard is crushed into 650 kg bales and sold to a recycler while shrinkwrap plastic is packed into 100 kg bales for recycling into dustbin bags and supermarket carrier bags.

Squaring the circle, page 38

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# Day One of a two-part investigation into complementary medicine

## Alternative health



● Jeremy Laurance reports on the fastest-growing medical sector  
● Three different approaches to the treatment of the whole person

### TOMORROW

● Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the links between the NHS and complementary medicine  
● The astonishing success of Chinese herbal therapies

## An honest alternative, or just magic?

NO one can doubt that alternative medicine works. A third of the population is estimated to have tried its remedies or visited its practitioners, and four out of five pronounce themselves satisfied with the treatment they have received.

Consumption of alternative remedies is rising faster in Britain than in any other European country. Private medical insurers are extending cover to include the main therapies and the NHS is spending at least £1 million a year on complementary practitioners. Nearly half of GPs are estimated to have referred patients for alternative treatments, and the first full-time NHS aromatherapist was recently appointed in Sheffield.

Why, then, is alternative medicine still treated with scepticism? Every profession has its share of venal practitioners. Orthodox medicine is in this respect no different from alternative medicine. But a broader, more damaging charge is laid at the door of alternative practitioners: that their enterprise is a fraud. Not medicine but magic.

The charge has made little impression on the public. Sales of herbal and homeopathic remedies and aromatherapy oils are up by a quarter since 1992 to more than £60 million, according to the market analysts, Mintel. We are still a long way behind our continental neighbours, however. Consumption is less than half that in Germany and a third of that in France, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Private medical insurers have responded to the rising demand. Bupa includes cover for acupuncture, chiropractic, homeopathy and osteopathy in all its policies, provided

### PUBLIC VERDICT

referral is through a consultant. Norwich Union Health-care includes similar cover but only in its top-of-the-range Premiercare policy. The Scandinavian insurer, Ohra, allows subscribers up to 12 treatments a year at £25 a time for the same four therapies, plus medical herbalism, without a doctor's referral.

Growing demand shows that what matters to patients is results, not logic — magic is acceptable to patients if it accomplishes what is promised.

The appeal of alternative medicine is linked to the amount of time available to patients: the use of touch, the magical qualities surrounding the practitioner, and conviction in the method of healing.

Interest has been fostered by a marked softening of the previously hostile attitude shown by the medical profession. The British Medical Association, which had dismissed alternative medicine in a report in 1965 as a "passing

fashion" with no scientific basis, executed a U-turn in 1994 when it admitted large numbers of GPs had made use of it.

The increase in chronic illness, for which orthodox medicine has promised much but delivered little, has given the movement an added boost.

As a measure of alternative medicine's new respectability, the government-sponsored Health Education Authority has published an A-Z guide to 60 therapies. Some, such as yoga with more than 5,000 teachers and 500,000 adherents in Britain, are well known therapeutic aids while others, such as iridology (diagnosis from examination of the iris of the eye) are controversial.

The guide ranks treatments, using a 10-point scale, as a holistic star system. This has drawn criticism from Professor Edward Ernst of Exeter University, who claims it gives readers a false impression of their scientific standing.

The star system is based on whether scientific research on the therapy is non-existent (one star) or has been published in the best journals (four stars). But this, Professor Ernst says, does not tell us what the research showed.

"There are two very good papers on iridology published in top journals and they both say it is totally meaningless as a diagnostic procedure. Yet in the rating system iridology gets three stars."

As Britain's first Professor of Complementary Medicine, he is involved in scientific assessment. He believes that unless researchers adhere to scientific principles and publish well organised studies, they will remain on the periphery of medicine.

Most adherents of comple-



Hands on: bodywork relies on the use of touch and massage to create an overall sense of wellbeing

## Starting at the feet and working upwards

HAVING your feet massaged is many people's idea of heaven, but it is also an increasingly popular form of therapy.

The ancient art of reflexology is based on the premise that the body's main organs and glands are represented on the soles of the feet, which are thus a map of what is

### REFLEXOLOGY

the lymphatic system, increasing energy and eliminating toxins. Enthusiasts say they are more energised and relaxed after treatment. One-hour sessions cost around £20.

Massaging specific points works to stimulate blood circulation and

the lymphatic system, increasing energy and eliminating toxins.

Enthusiasts say they are more energised and relaxed after treatment. One-hour sessions cost around £20.

KATHRYN KNIGHT  
The British Complementary Medicine Association 01242 22070.



Yoga: head-to-toe health

## WHAT YOUR DOCTOR COULD PRESCRIBE INSTEAD OF TABLETS

MEDICAL CREDIBILITY: Indifference ♦♦♦ Interest ♦♦♦♦♦ Acceptance ♦♦♦♦♦

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH: Anecdotal ♦♦♦ Some studies ♦♦♦♦ In the best journals ♦♦♦♦♦

Medical credibility: Indifference ♦♦♦ Interest ♦♦♦♦ Acceptance ♦♦♦♦♦

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## Balancing the five elements

THE elder statesman among holistic medicines is Ayurveda or Ayurvedism, the ancient Indian "science of life". First described in 1500BC in a body of literature known as the Vedas, it is becoming so popular that the General Medical Council recently agreed to recognise medical schools incorporating Vedic principles, provided their students also attain conventional qualifications.

Rather than alleviating or curing illness, the Ayurvedic blend of meditation, yoga, astrology, herbal medicine and dietary advice is a philosophy of life which aims to prevent it. According to its teachings, originally in Sanskrit, each of us is composed of five elements — fire,

### THE VEDIC PRINCIPLE

water, earth, air and ether. "There are three forces through which these elements manifest themselves, called vata, pitta and kapha," says Dr Shiv Kumar, from the Ayurvedic Company of Great Britain, which has one of the largest databases on Ayurveda in the world. "Most people will be a blend of two." Ayurveda says that to keep well, we must try to maintain and optimise our natural balance of elements. It preaches that life should be governed by regularity.

There are about 100 qualified Ayurvedic practitioners in Britain, and each will go through an exhaustive diag-

nosis process with his or her patient, including a questionnaire. The pulse can be taken in as many as 12 positions, and reflexes will be tested. Detailed questions about the urine, stool, the tongue and eyes are also usual.

PANCHAKARMA, meaning "five treatments", is the name given to the format of Ayurvedic treatment, a mix of stretching, meditation, massage and herbal preparations. Another important aspect will be a food regime, tailored to each individual. As a rule, irregular meals are discouraged. Wholesome meals should be eaten calmly, fol-

lowed by a short period of contemplation. And those seeking spiritual harmony should avoid certain metropolitan restaurants — a bad-tempered cook can infuse the affair with discord.

Particularly recommended are energy-giving foods, known as *sattvic*, such as fresh fruit and vegetables (except root vegetables), whole milk, wheat-based products, rice and olive oil. Foods which sap energy, called *tamasic*, should be avoided. These include alcohol, coffee, potatoes, red meat, pickled or cured foods and cheeses.

ANJANA AHUJA

● The Ayurvedic Company of Great Britain can be contacted on 0171-370 2255.

## The power of touch

### BODYWORK

Bodywork is all about harnessing the power of touch. It encompasses therapies such as chiropractic, osteopathy, Roling (deep massage), massage, aromatherapy, reflexology and shiatsu. The benefits are becoming more widely recognised by the medical profession — a west London hospital is researching the use of massage in the rehabilitation of stroke victims.

Dr Mario Impallomeni, consultant geriatrician at the Hammersmith Hospital, treated 12 stroke patients with "marma" massage last year, and was so encouraged that he is hoping to start a large-scale study within the next few months.

Marma massage is a feature of Ayurvedic medicine, which believes there are 107 vital points, or *marmas*, in the body. Flesh, veins, arteries, tendons, bones and joints meet up at these points. As with acupuncture, the points are thought to correspond to particular organs or functions.

The claimed effects of the therapy, which is offered by the Hale Clinic, in London, are nothing short of miraculous. "One bedridden patient could walk by the end of her treatment," says Theresa Hale.

Another hands-on therapy is manual lymph drainage (MLD). "Manipulating the lymph glands has a detoxifying effect," says Jane Martens, of the Hale Clinic.

The appeal of alternative treatments is not restricted to an eccentric elite. "We are seeing more people than ever, partly because the medical profession is beginning to recognise alternative therapies," she says. She adds that people are beginning to recognise the importance of coping with stress, and will now go for a massage without necessarily being prompted by an ailment.

Cranial osteopathy ranks highly among new treatments and is blossoming into a therapy in its own right. Osteopathy focuses on the role of bones, muscles, tendons, tissues, nerves and the spinal column, in the overall maintenance of the body.

It is used mainly on infants who have had traumatic births. Ms Martens says: "It is amazing how many parents bring their children here, and it's almost as if the kids have come here straight from the womb."

Bodywork does not have to be a reaction to illness. It can be part of a healthy lifestyle, and variations are offered at many health clubs. Champneys, in Tring, Hertfordshire, recently expanded its range of touch-based treatments by introducing an aromatherapy massage for pregnant women.

Like many other establishments, Champneys has adopted an appropriate vocabulary. As well as offering massages for the "mind, body and soul", it has introduced massages which it calls "tranquillity" and "vital energy".

ANJANA AHUJA

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Rodin's vision of *The Thinker*

## How to get inside the thinking brain

Recently, in a darkened lecture theatre, I watched on a flickering screen a slow-motion video of a brain actually thinking.

For the first time, neuroscientists have access to a technique for observing the living brain which can show the millisecond by millisecond modulation of the nerves as they flash their messages to and fro between brain regions.

The technique is called magnetoencephalography (MEG), and it works by assembling an image from the tiny magnetic fields generated by the coordinated discharge of thousands of nerves. Magnetic fields, according to standard physics, always accompany

Neuroscientists can now watch the nerves flashing messages around the brain. Dr Bruce Charlton joined the audience

electrical activity. The sister technique of MEG is therefore electroencephalography (EEG), which detects the electrical nerve discharge itself.

EEG has been around since the 1920s, and has been used as a diagnostic tool to reveal the focus of epileptic discharges, for monitoring the level of consciousness, and as a research tool. But the picture obtained from EEG is a crude, blurry

image averaged from the whole brain thickness. Interpreting nerve activity from an EEG is like trying to guess the breed of a fish using only ripples on the surface of a distant pond. By contrast, MEG can probe beneath the surface to yield a highly detailed three-dimensional view.

While the skull has considerable electrical resistance, magnetic fields pass

easily through it. But the magnetic fields involved are incredibly small — starting a car engine a mile away would be enough to swamp the signal. Therefore modern MEG needed the development of incredibly sensitive detectors (called "Squid" magnetometers), sophisticated shielding, and computer programs to eliminate background "noise" and amplify the neurally-generated field.

Three-dimensional images of the living human brain have been familiar since the invention of computerised axial tomography (CAT) scans a couple of decades ago. More recently magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has been able to provide an even sharper focus. But

both of these methods produce static pictures. Another technique called positron emission tomography (PET) can demonstrate changes in blood flow every half minute or so, at about half a centimetre level of detail. But only MEG can provide the millisecond and millimetre power of resolution needed to detect the neural activations directly and in real time.

There are some limitations. Only certain parts of the brain can be seen, and the depths of the cerebral cortex are still out of range.

As Francis Crick has argued, future progress in neuropsychology requires entirely new methods for visualising human neuroanatomy. But until then, MEG reveals tantalising glimpses of the mind at work.

Dr Charlton is a lecturer in epidemiology and public health at Newcastle University.

In California, campaigners have fought to save a fragile eco-system, Giles Whittell reports

## Wars of the waters that saved Mark Twain's lake

RUSH CREEK is one of five powerful streams that tumble down the eastern side of California's High Sierras into the ancient Mono Lake basin. As you watch the water race through a shallow canyon to the lake, it is strange and exhilarating to consider that for most of the past 50 years it never got this far. Instead it was piped 350 miles south, to be flushed down the drains of Los Angeles.

The creek's rebirth is a victory for the underdog in a long battle to save North America's oldest lake from its thirstiest metropolis. It also marks the start of a 20-year experiment to see whether a fragile and hauntingly beautiful ecosystem that was all but destroyed by man can be restored by him as well.

If the experiment works, history may thank not only the environmentalists who have made Mono Lake their cause célèbre — activists trying to save the Aral Sea in the former Soviet Union have turned to them for advice — but also an unglamorous technological innovation known as the ultra low-flow toilet.

What remains of Mono Lake lies at an altitude of more than 6,000 feet, between the sierras and the Nevada state line. It is lonely except for a tiny ancient mining village on its western shore, and quiet except for the wind. With no natural outlet its level was regulated for some 750,000 years by evaporation alone.

Before Los Angeles diverted its tributaries, Mono Lake was rich in salt and other minerals. These supported huge populations of brine shrimp and flies, which made the lake a favourite staging post for up to a million migrating water fowl each year.

Mark Twain paused here, gathering material for *Rough-*



Mark Twain (left) washed his shirts clean in the waters of Mono Lake. The tufa towers, right, calibrating the extent of the lake's disappearance, have become symbols of the fight to save it

ing it in 1872. He found that Mono Lake water left his shirt "as clean as though it had been through the abseil of a washerwoman's hands".

The lake's strangest feature is its "tufa towers" (tufa is derived from the Latin *tufus*, meaning porous). These limestone-like stalagmites — made

of calcium from the fresh water that combined with carbonates and sulphates — form over freshwater springs in the lake bed. "It's mysterious," says Geoff McQuilkin, a Mono Lake activist. "They seem to form in rings round the spring, which is then channelled up through the

developing column. The best way to think of them is as petrified springs."

Since 1940, when California's state assembly granted Los Angeles the rights to Mono Lake's entire water runoff, the water level has dropped by 41 feet and its volume has fallen by nearly

half. Its water, which tastes like the juice from a tin of clams, is now too saline to support more than a token population of brine shrimp, thanks to continued evaporation without freshwater replenishment. Numbers of migrating birds have fallen to about a hundredth of their

level in Mark Twain's time. The tufa towers, calibrating the lake's gradual disappearance, have become symbols of the fight to save it.

That fight has been peaceful compared with California's earlier water wars. In the 1920s and 30s, when the 300-mile-long Los Angeles Aqu-

educt was being built to carry water south from the Owens Valley (which leads to Mono Lake), local ranchers blew it up 14 times.

Trainloads of heavily armed detectives would set out from Los Angeles to tame these frontiersmen, but no such force has been marshalled

against today's Mono Lake Committee. This shoestring group of conservationists, a David to the Goliath of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, began a 15-year campaign in 1979 to stop the diversion of Mono Lake's water.

Their first breakthrough came six years ago. Droughts in 1989 and 1990 forced new water conservation efforts in Los Angeles, including the installation of thousands of subsidised ultra low-flow lavatories which do the work of an old seven-gallon flush with a mere 1.4 gallons.

Other innovations were tried, such as low-flow shower heads and sprinkler systems modified to re-use washing-machine water. The result has been a 25 per cent drop in usage that appeared to make the diversion of 27.625 million gallons of water a year from Mono Lake unnecessary.

Los Angeles has shown an uncharacteristic talent for frugality, and conservationists seized on it as proof that the lake could be saved, without shifting the environmental burden elsewhere. "The city is using the same amount of water now as it was 20 years ago despite growing by a million," says Martha Davis, the director of the Mono Lake Committee.

A year ago, in a decision that won it a rare standing ovation, the city's water board agreed to stop almost all diversions until the lake had risen by 18 feet. Rush Creek and its four neighbours will take 20 years to do the job and the lake will still be 25 feet lower than in 1940, but environmentalists say it will "look full". (Thanks to record snows last winter it has already risen 18 inches.)

Others grumble that saving Mono Lake has simply forced Los Angeles to buy more water from the San Francisco area — \$38 million-worth of it a year, according to one water specialist. Meanwhile, it is far from certain that the wetlands round the lake where migrating birds once nested will recover. Nor do scientists know what will happen to dry tufa towers as they are surrounded again by water; they may dissolve. Bill Hasencamp of the Department of Water and Power says: "We'll know in 20 years if it was worth it."

### Deaf children demonstrate an innate ability for language

THE BIRTH of a new language has lent strong support to the belief that speech is inborn: a function of brain structure and not simply of acquisition by learning. The theory was first put forward in the 1950s by the American scholar Noam Chomsky, who argued that the astonishing ability of young children to learn to speak argues that language must be innate.

Linguists often despair at the loss of languages, which are disappearing at an alarming rate. But over the past 15 years they have had the opportunity to see one born, in a story reminiscent of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. The language is ISN, or Idioma de Signos Nicaragüense, a sign language spontaneously generated by a group of congenitally deaf children in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.

Before the Sandinista Government came to power in 1979, there was no provision for the education of deaf

## From pidgin to creole

children in Nicaragua. Full of good intentions, the new Government set up a school and brought children to it from all over the country. But they provided only hearing teachers, who knew no sign language.

This left the children to their own devices, rather like those in Golding's novel. They quickly developed a pidgin sign language, and successive arrivals at the school honed and polished it to



SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

produce what Dr Judy Kegl of Rutgers University calls a truly rich language.

In one leap, the children had gone from a pidgin to what linguists call a creole. Pidgins are choppy strings of words, with no grammar and no special order. A creole has structure, grammar and

consistency. While all those who use pidgin do it differently, the creole signers are much more fluent and expressive.

They can watch a surrealist cartoon, says the linguist Stephen Pinker, and describe its plot to another child. They can use it in jokes, poems, narratives and life histories, he says — "a language has been born before our eyes".

The children appear to be a classic example of what Chomsky called "poverty of stimulus" being no block on the development of language. "These kids have been exposed to an insufficient model of language," Dr Ann Senghas of the University of Rochester Sign Language Research School told *Scientific American*, "and yet they have created something highly developed."

The natural experiment in Managua has confirmed something else. Only those children who start before the age of five really become fluent. For those who joined the school later, it is like an adult struggling to learn a foreign language — very hard work which seldom leads to complete fluency.

### Navigating by the mountains



BEES navigate better in the mountains, American biologists have discovered, suggesting

that they use the horizon and any striking landmarks on it to find their way back to the hive.

Dr Edward Southwick of the State University of New York and Dr Stephen Buchman of the US Agriculture Department's Bee

Research Centre in Tucson, Arizona, took bees from their hives, marked them with tiny stick-on metal tags, and released them at a range of distances away.

They report in *The American Naturalist* that in the flat area of Arizona and New York State, the bees returned successfully to the hive from distances of up to 5.6km, but on a site in the Arizona mountains they returned from as far as 9.2km. Twice as many made the journey successfully in the mountains.

The conclusion? Bees can spot prominent landmarks and set a course home, until they catch a scent of the hive.

### Satellite lost and found



A SATELLITE that went missing a year ago has turned up again in the bush of northern

Ghana. German and Japanese scientists who thought it had plunged to destruction in the Pacific are delighted.

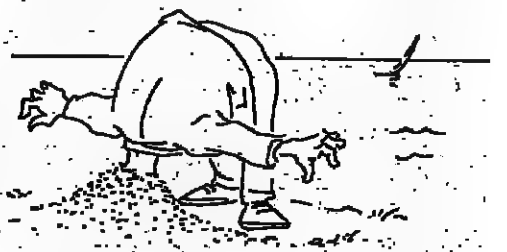
The \$42 million (£28 million) Express satellite was launched on a Japanese rocket in January 1995. It went into the wrong orbit, lost

contact and crashed, to the chagrin of the scientists.

Cut to the northern Ghanaian bush, where local people later found a re-entry capsule with a parachute attached. The parachute was Russian-made and contained Cyrillic lettering, so the authorities in Ghana feared it might be radioactive. They stuffed it in a cupboard at a nearby airport.

Then a German diplomat read an article about the mystery capsule and put two and two together. A team from the German space agency has confirmed the satellite is theirs. Now all that remains is for them to get it back.

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# The woman who up with English rules will not put

Tunku Varadarajan meets this year's Reith lecturer — and learns why there is no 'right' way to use our mother tongue

Professor Jean Aitchison will this year's Reith Lectures give. Does anything seem "wrong" with that sentence? Not according to the professor. She does not like it, of course — just as she would not like "Rosemary an octopus ate" or "Philip his dentures down the drain has dropped" — but she refuses, adamantly, to describe it as "wrong".

"I would call such a sentence ill-formed," she tells me. "I prefer not to speak of right or wrong English ... much better to see things as well-formed or ill-formed. Wrong is a word with too many unhelpful shades."

I venture another question. Could *The Times* have a headline that said "Harriet Harman isn't resigning"? The professor — again — says that there would be nothing "wrong" with that. That is, a perfectly clear headline, admirably clear. And since the function of a headline is to catch the attention in an intelligible way, I would have no objection to that.

Hmm ... but what would readers of *The Times* think? Would they not be agast? "Most probably, because that would not be an appropriate headline for the newspaper."

She lingers on the word "appropriate", just as she had done earlier with "ill-formed": these words are, for her, essential tools of analysis. "One has to speak appropriate language ... one addresses a baby quite differently from the way in which one addresses a bus conductor." Equally, one does not address the Queen as one would one's mother — unless the Queen is one's mother.

Professor Aitchison, brimming with this sort of good sense, is the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford. A linguist — or linguistician — she has chosen what she calls "The Language Web" as the subject for the Reith Lectures on the BBC. Renowned for making abstruse things simple, she welcomes the opportunity to explain her research to a wider audience. "The language of a web conveys the complexity of language, the way that it is biologically programmed in humans." But as the title of her first lecture — on air tomorrow — reveals, she believes that we are also caught in "a web of worries" about language.

"People fuss about things that are trivial ... things like split infinitives. I must confess to greatly enjoying split infinitives." She has a blast, in between sips of sancerre, against such self-appointed 18th-century "grammarians" as Robert Lowth, Bishop of London.

"They had fixed and eccentric opinions about language, and quite pompous obsessions, such as exploring the use of prepositions at the end of sentences," Professor Aitchison. In turn, she deplores these constraints that have been thrust upon us; and Lowth's *Short Introduction to English Grammar* (1762) she has described memorably in print as "pernicious" and full of "pseudo-rules".

Many of these rules were born of the excessive admiration for Latin — and of the elegance of its precepts — which prevailed at Lowth's time. Professor Aitchison read Greek and Latin at Girton College, Cambridge, before studying linguistics at Radcliffe College in America. Linguistics was then a subject "on the ascendant" and she was afraid that if she stayed in Cambridge she would have to spend all her time in the library "deciding whether the Greeks of old dropped their aitches".

Flatteringly — for hacks — she asserts that the ancient Greeks loved language in much the same way that journalists today love language. "Greek texts and modern newspapers manipulate language in the same inventive way." Ancient Greek, the professor is in no doubt, is "much clearer than Latin". Why, I asked, in the manner of one not schooled in the classics, "it's straightforward, really. They used many more verbs than the Romans did, and fewer abstract nouns ... just as modern newspapers do."

An example of the Latin method? "England's recovery was helped by Botham's strong batting." And the Greek? "Botham batted strongly and England recovered." I saw her point: a punchy, verb sentence which no Sports Desk in the land would turn its nose up at. Very journalistic ... very ancient Greek!

Her reference to Botham was a nice coincidence, for in the course of a few telephone calls to other dons at Oxford, one — who wished not to be named — described Professor Aitchison as "the Ian Botham of linguistics". He may have been referring to her popular touch — or he may have intended to be unkind. But the professor's methods are certainly colourful. Her inaugural lecture at Oxford, delivered at the venerable Examination Schools, made generous use of visual aids — many of them cartoons by Giles, some of Charlie Brown, others of Dennis the Menace.

If linguistics has a reputation for impenetrability, that is not her fault. Noam Chomsky — in many respects her inspiration, and with whose idea of the biological endowment of language she is so connected — is often dense of text and chewy of phrase. Not so our Reith lecturer. Her books are peppered with gleeful sentences such as: "In a world where humans grow old, tadpoles change into frogs, and milk turns into cheese, it would be strange if language alone remained unaltered."

How many readers would expect the second chapter of a book called *Language Change: Progress or Decay?*, published by the Cambridge University Press, to begin with sentences such as these: "A Farouse recipe in a cookbook explains how to catch a puffin before you roast it. Like a cook, a linguist studying language change must first gather together the basic ingredients."

And the chapters of her quite difficult *Words in the Mind* have such headings as "Welcome to Dictionopolis", or "Interpreting Ice-Cream Cones" or — my favourite — "What is a Bongaloo, Daddy?" What is a bongaloo indeed? Tune in tomorrow ... and maybe you will find out.



Jean Aitchison: she believes that if we used language more like Greeks — and less like Romans — we would understand one another better

THE lectures, named after the BBC's founder and first Director-General, Lord Reith, began in 1948 with lectures paid 1,000 guineas to finance research — beneficiaries have included Bertrand Russell, J.K. Galbraith and Robert Oppenheimer. By 1972, however, the fee was thought too low to finance research and it was feared that that year's lectures would be the last. The gloom was misplaced, but controversy has never been far away.

## THE REITH LECTURES

There was a scandal in 1962 when a Professor Carstairs said that charity was more important than chastity, and in 1969 the American scientist Dr Frank Fraser Darling was mocked for saying deforestation and fuel emissions might melt the polar ice caps. There was panic in 1977 when Lord Boyle

pulled out at the last minute, and the following year the Bishop of Southwark gave warning that Dr Edward Norman's lectures could lead to an era of Nazism. In 1991 the lectures came under attack because 43 of the 44 previous lecturers had been men, but in 1992 the BBC failed to find a lecturer at all.

● This year's five lectures will be broadcast on Tuesday, starting tomorrow at 8.30pm on Radio 4. The Times will summarise them each Wednesday.

## Who really buys those haute couture clothes?



The former Empress Bokassa, left, and Princess Firyal

So, what do you do? I asked one of New York's society ladies as we talked, leaving the Valentino fashion show. "Do!" she hedged nervously. I elucidated: "You know, a little work for charity here and there?"

"Ahh, charity ... Yes, I'm at a fundraising ball or dinner a couple of times a week." She leant forward to confide: "Well, where else would you wear all these dresses?"

It takes an American to get to the nub of the Paris haute couture shows: displays of excess barely excused by artistry or charity. Our lady of Park Avenue, Manhattan, was one of the 200 or so real people who actually still buy haute couture at \$5,000 or £10,000 a shot, as opposed to the thousands who merely go to gawp for the media.

On the rounds of the shows, it proved extraordinarily easy

to spot shoppers versus gawpers. The "200" still feel it is acceptable to wear orange and emerald green after puberty, and believe that a woman should signal her husband's wealth by weight of jewellery. Our lady of Park Avenue was wrapped in black lycra and leopard skin, with earrings like hubcaps, and diamond rings immobilising her fingers. Her friend, also a society lady, had been inserted into a curvaceous white suit, suggesting haute couture may be worth the money.

The ladies felt that Galliano at Givenchy had been "unwearable, apart from maybe two things" — unlike the fashion press — but that Valentino understood a woman's body. "I normally buy a cocktail suit or dress and some evening gowns," said Park Avenue. Asked precisely

Kate Muir meets the women who have to go to charity balls in order to wear their designer dresses

how much that would set her back, she merely laughed: "We come for the fun." The unemployed have to fill the days somehow.

The Manhattan ladies were perched on gold chairs in the "moneybags" section of the audience while the "fashion celeb" section was led by American Vogue's Anna Wintour. The "moneybags" row included Princess Firyal of Jordan, Joan Collins, a couple of vicomesses and baronnes, a Saxe-Coburg or two and an African woman in a toga. All were salivating over, as the programme put it, "the glorious certainty of wearing a unique and unrepeatable piece".

Since all the clothes, in greens and beiges like dead skin, reminded me of doilies and antimacassars, I asked the Americans for their advice. "Don't waste money on a summer suit — get that at ready-to-wear. Go for beaded eveningwear that will get noticed. Summer's difficult — everyone is so casual nowadays, and there are only so many weddings." They were keen on a silk evening dress with an enormous bustle. "Of course, you'd get him [Valentino] to take that down. That's only for the show." At these prices, the designer takes the client's advice. Despite reports of haute

couture's death, these Americans felt all was healthy. "But, darling, we miss the Eighties, don't we?" they lamented, heading for lunch.

At the Christian Lacroix show I met a velvet-covered Frenchwoman with an orange crocodile handbag who actually said "Ohh low, low," a smokier version of "Ooh la, la", when the designer's more stunning creations were paraded. She lacked the heady American vulgarity: "I come, then I think a while, then I go to see Christian."

Of course, the fact is that the haute couture shows are intended not for the shoppers but for the world media, so the YSL, Dior or Valentino brand name gets a free airing on television. In fact, Chanel held its media show after a secret viewing for personal shoppers. Either this

is because the personal shoppers like discretion, or because Chanel, and other designers, are slightly embarrassed by their clientele. The newest clients are not French aristocrats, but rich wives from Russia, Arab countries and even China, desperate to buy nobility through dress. Given the prices, the couturier cannot afford to be choosy.

This year François Lesage, the master embroiderer, completed his most complicated dress ever for Chanel — a beaded gown which took a record 1,280 hours of work. "The last customer to keep us that busy was the former Empress Bokassa for her coronation robes," he said. A couturier must be discreet. If a customer's husband, such as Emperor Bokassa, indulges in cannibalism one would certainly not mention it during Madame's fitting.

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## ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



### ■ VISUAL ART

Recent work by  
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goes on show at  
Waddington and  
Karsten Schubert  
OPEN: Now  
REVIEW: Tomorrow



### ■ JAZZ

Cleo Laine and  
John Dankworth  
make sophisticated  
sounds again at  
the Café Royal  
OPENS: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



### ■ THEATRE

David Storey's  
sporting classic,  
*The Changing  
Room*, opens at  
the Duke of York's  
OPENS: Wednesday  
REVIEW: Friday



### ■ DANCE

At Covent Garden  
MacMillan's sexy  
*The Invitation* is  
revived with  
Leanne Benjamin  
OPENS: Wednesday  
REVIEW: Friday

As London awaits 'the art event of the year', leading artists tell Isabel Carlisle about the enduring influence of a giant

# What the genius of Cézanne means to us

## GILLIAN AYRES

CÉZANNE's strong, obsessive way of seeing caused him to render nature into simplified pictorial parts and make realistic elements into more unified geometric shapes. These shapes became more like each other, and then clearly relied on their relationship. Cézanne rendered value differences, depth-illusion and surface complexity on his own passionate terms. His paintings developed so that they became their own spaces, a world of their own experience.

## ANTHONY CARO

CÉZANNE is a touchstone for artists. He is so firm and rock-like. His concern is not with turning out successful pictures but with working through his problems. In his life and work this is what every serious artist is trying to do.

I have always looked a lot at Cézanne. It used to be the organisation and the clarity of the still lifes that drew me — now, although I still delight in the still lifes and am moved by the intensity in the portraits, nevertheless I have become intrigued by the "Bathers". They are difficult pictures to come to terms with. Often they are only small, but I wish I could get results that have such power. In Cézanne's work, I don't see what one is always told his work is about — the sphere, the cube, and the cone — I see weight and I see horizontal and vertical. After the breath of air that the Impressionists gave to painting, Cézanne brought weight, substance and pressure back into his art. And that I think is the mood of artists' needs today, so for us it is an appropriate moment to have the show.

## PETER DOIG

THE first Cézannes I saw were in my father's art books: poor, pale reproductions which were not very impressive to a young artist. At this point there had been so many other breakthroughs that his achievements felt like art history. The period of Cézanne and Post-Impressionism seemed to be like that of Abstract Expressionism — a real breakthrough period with plenty of open territory in which people could carve out individual inquiries. You could be an Impressionist or a Pointillist — there was a lot of stylish scope.

When you read older artists talking about Cézanne they have much stronger feelings about him. Where I was at a school, at St Martin's in the

The Cézanne exhibition which opens on Thursday at the Tate Gallery is not only set to be the art event of the year, but a reminder of what comprehensive surveys like this are for. The show will give every visitor enormous, exhilarating pleasure; but beyond that, like a well-written biography, it should encourage us to rethink our ideas about this great artist.

Cézanne is a key figure for art of this century: he was enormously influential for the art of Matisse and Picasso; he pointed the way towards Cubism; and, beyond that, to abstract art. His genius lay in achieving his declared aim of taking the art of the Impressionists and making something solid, monumental, out of it. He did this by introducing the

weight of sculpture and the forms of architecture into his paintings while still painting with pure colour. He combined the grandeur and harmony of classicism with a vibrancy and exuberance that he found in Baroque art, and in sculpture in particular. He anchored his paintings with solid, natural shapes such as Mont Sainte-Victoire, cliffs or pine trees, and then covered the canvas with brushstrokes that seem to float, and fragmented the forms into planes and colours. He was an artist of paradoxes who struggled to find resolutions in his landscapes, still lifes, portraits and wholly invented groups of naked bathers. Cézanne's vision was so original that artists still mine his paintings — if not for ideas then for the courage to dare to be different.



Cézanne by Cézanne: "A vision so original artists still mine his paintings; if not for ideas then for the courage to be different"

early 1980s, we had the tyranny of post-American Abstract Expressionism via British post-Abstract Expressionism. We were reacting against that.

I really started looking at Cézanne when I started making my paintings of buildings and architecture seen through nature. I didn't want any dominance given to nature or architecture or sky or ground within the painting; everything was given the same level of treatment. So when I made my paintings of buildings seen through trees I thought they

would be more successful if they were painted with the same lack of hierarchy as in Cézanne: instead of painting the facade of a building and then shrouding it in trees I would pick the architecture through the foliage, so that the picture would push itself up to your eye. I thought that was a much more real way of looking at things, because that is the way the eye looks: you are constantly looking through things, seeing the foreground and the background at the same time.

## HOWARD HODGKIN

IN ENGLAND, certainly for someone of my generation, Cézanne's reputation has suffered greatly because of the use he has been put to by art teachers; the way he has been treated as a moral stick to beat people with. When I was a schoolboy you couldn't seriously consider becoming an art student or a painter unless you worked from nature. Cézanne was held up as the great

exemplar of someone who looked, and nature did something to him and art came out. Cézanne was not the apostle of sitting on a stool in front of a tree, a still life or a naked model and looking very carefully and using a plumb line and if you did that with sufficient application art would ensue. He was an artist first. The lucidity in front of nature that he shows is because the drawing itself is more important than the perceived subject. His pictures are flat. In a

Cézanne an orange is an orange. It is not observed as being lit from one direction. He invented a pictorial language in which edges of objects suggest a flat plane parallel to the picture surface which then rounds off at the edges.

Cézanne is resolutely frontal in his approach; his pictures are as formal as Byzantine icons. His language of painting was extremely formal in the sense that it was based on the grammar of forms. He created a language of marks which was entirely his own and enabled him to say all kinds of things.

The motif to him was a constant encouragement, reminder and friend. His language, which he acquired slowly, is self-sufficient, and comes before whatever it is trying to express. The kinds of marks he made, the grammar and syntax of Cézanne, are as paramount as in Vermeer. I think his endless fascination for people comes from the interruption or the distortion of this language by his attitude to the subject, or how the subject worked on him.

Cézanne is a great classical artist who succeeded in doing what he wanted to do. In classical art the tension between the language and what is being said or expressed is in an endlessly delicate balance.

## KEN KIFF

OTHERS will make the same point about Cézanne being an example — of integrity; of bringing together serene architecture and passion; of the massive presence of objects and space, yet with the fragility of these films of paint against a sort of nothingness. So that Braque, in painting his yellow wallpaper and figures on a black ground is being not only Cubist, but still close to Cézanne.

If you were to ask me, as a painter, in 1996, "is Cézanne still of importance to you?", the answer is yes. For many reasons. Partly, perhaps, because of the enormous amount that can be focused into the dab of paint.

## R.B. KITAJ

FOR many people, Shakespeare is the heart of their canon. Cézanne is at the heart of mine. Nothing in art since his last three "Bather" paintings seems more daring to me. Daring Matisse told how Cézanne's "Bathers" gave him courage to dare all his life. Picasso was still building upon Cézanne's dare in 1973. It has taken me 60 years to half solve Cézanne's secret.

I think that what he did was so strange, so hated by Philistines, so unprecedented, that real artists would, in his wake, do anything they dreamt of — within a sensibility, temperament, intellect, of course. That is the ultimate lesson of his "sensations" — they arise now from the mind, heart and hand with an utter freedom that did not, could not, exist before Cézanne.

As for me, he helps me to dare to follow my most awkward, foolish passions and obsessions, to wave my own red flags in the dull faces of late-century Salon hacks and killers. He gives me courage to invent my subjects as well as my forms.

Above all, his "little sensations" correspond to what I call my "temptations" and I believe in following what tempts me, even though it gets me into trouble — as it did Cézanne when he illustrated his own impulses and secrets. When he died, a critic wrote: "Ape-Eye is dead."

## EUAN UGLOW

CÉZANNE is the pivotal figure for art of this century. — Matisse and Picasso took him as their god. From him they got the idea that an artist could do whatever he liked. But it was impossible for anyone to copy him.

Cézanne's painting was so much to do with passion: I went to the Barnes Collection and saw those portraits of his wife and found that he must have been incredibly in love. I have never seen such affectionate portraits. He was not just a crusty old man.

Cézanne's responsibility to what he was looking at, and the sensations he was getting, widened his vocabulary all the time. If you look at Cubist pictures, certainly Picasso's best paintings, you see that although very beautiful the vocabulary is very limited. Cézanne was a sculptural painter but very conscious of the surface of the canvas, and, in various ways, keeps bringing you back to the surface. Colour is one of the things that

keeps the picture on the surface.

His pictures go right across the canvas, like a typewriter: he is scanning the surface the whole time. In the late landscapes there is a passion and rhythm that you feel is like a runner running a mile — impossible to stop because there is such a terrific flow through the painting. The marks are done with an electric passion. The same powerful current goes all the way through the painting. Now I look at Cézanne for pure pleasure — he makes you want to work.

## RICHARD WENTWORTH

THERE is no other word for the things that I am interested in, other than "things". That has translated itself into sculpture. I find incredible substance in Cézanne's trees, mountains and large ladies. I first saw *La Femme à la Cafetière* over 20 years ago and I remember thinking that the way the spoon was in the cup, the cup was in the saucer and the saucer was on the table was completely incredible. I see him as a sculptor's painter.

The First World War democratised doubt and the 20th century has been full of it. I see it as Cézanne's good fortune to have worked before this event. The fact that a picture by Cézanne is simultaneously so obviously unsure and yet resolved is a kind of ironic encouragement, I suppose. Doubt is the position from which artists have to work, and a century later there are no canons out there to reach for.

● Cézanne is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1, from Thursday until April 28; sponsored by Ernst & Young. For advance booking, which is advised, telephone 0171-420 0000

## A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

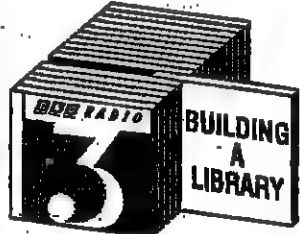
### SMETANA'S MÁ VLAST, reviewed by Jan Smaczny

Composed between 1874 and 1879, this cycle of six symphonic poems celebrates the history, mythology and countryside of Bohemia. Shortly after beginning *Má vlast*, Smetana became rapidly and completely deaf — a disastrous blow for any musician, particularly one who earned the major part of his living from conducting.

*Má vlast* undoubtedly gained depth from the identification of personal suffering with the triumphs and vicissitudes of the composer's nation. Little wonder that Czech conductors aspire to direct the work, and it is no surprise that a majority of available versions are by Czechs, mostly with the Czech Philharmonic.

Among them, Václav Talich (Supraphon 11 1896-2, mid price) and Václav Smetáček (Supraphon 11 1961-2, mid price) maintain a firm grip on the narrative in the first part, *Výhled*, which depicts the glory and decline of the Czech nation. Some performers, including James Levine with the Vienna Philharmonic and Antal Dorati with the Concertgebouw, tend to overemphasise the bombastic elements; others, among them Elihu Newell with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, are too sentimental in the nature pictures, *Vltava* and *From Bohemia's Woods and Fields*.

Walser Weller with the Israel Philharmonic (Decca 433 635-2, budget) finds an infectious lift in the dance episodes and takes an unfussy approach to the serious music. But ultimately the Czechs have an advantage with orchestras that have this music in their blood; also, their best conductors interpret with an eye to Smetana's innate operatic sense.



As a result, the most striking performance comes from Raphael Kubelík (who also has two recordings with non-Czech orchestras available) and the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra from the 1990 Prague Spring Festival. This first festival after the Velvet Revolution marked Kubelík's return to his native land after many years of exile, and the electric atmosphere and superb playing make this a uniquely valuable document.

In this performance (Supraphon 11 1208-2, £13.95), the CPO played as it had rarely done for 40 years. There is a certain amount of audience noise, but the dignity, strength and sheer exultation of this remarkable recording provide a breathtakingly vivid image of the Czech nation celebrating itself at the dawn of a new era — and that, when all is said and done, is what *Má vlast* is all about.

● Recommended recordings can be ordered from The Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall, London W10 6BL (freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk) ● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Verdi's *Don Carlos*

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## POP

## The real McKee

Whipping Boy  
LA2, WI

ONCE just another Dublin four-piece, whose first album revealed little more than a love of distorted guitars, Whipping Boy have developed a style of their own, and in Ferghal McKee they have a charismatic front man with a potentially great voice.

The turning point came with last year's *Heartworm* album, with its songs of romantic desolation and near despair but with the kind of tunes that cannot help but draw people in. A good example is *Twinkle*, the first single from the album, which featured a fine performance from McKee, who became part cabaret star, part unhinged psycho as he allowed the song's big tune to mask the tainted love in its lyrics.

The most obvious comparison is with Shane MacGowan.

He certainly sounds a lot like him, particularly on the new single, *When We Were Young*, which he sang with a can of beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other. There is also an aggressive side to McKee, as he showed during *Tripped*, when he stood at the edge of the stage and sneered the words "It's easy just to be like anyone".

Occasionally, he retreated inwards, becoming even more manic. At one point, he pulled the hood of his sweatshirt over his head, almost completely covering his face, and swayed backwards and forwards like the kind of lunatic you try to avoid making eye contact with on the Tube.

Whipping Boy have enormous pop potential, as they showed in the closing *We Don't Need Nobody Else*, which McKee mockingly described as "a Bryan Adams song" but which is actually a vivid account of domestic violence wrapped in a bold, catchy tune.

McKee has been known to strip off all his clothes and perform naked. Thankfully, on this occasion, he remained fully clothed; when Whipping Boy are as good as this, they do not need the extra gimmick.

ANN SCANLON

## RECITAL

## Total control

Maria João Pires  
Wigmore Hall

A STRING of Chopin nocturnes formed the second half of Maria João Pires's recital at the Wigmore Hall; we heard about half his output in this genre at a single sitting, with no intervening applause to break the spell she wove with consummate mastery. The capacity audience sat still and quiet as Chopin's poetry-for-piano filled the hall.

Pires's finely wrought interpretation brought out a strong narrative vein in the music, making every note count in an overall account that was quite simply the most compelling I have heard. There is nothing break or fussy about her playing; her approach is direct, even bold at times. This was particularly telling in the arduous she brought to those contrasting central sections. Indeed, one of the great

strengths of Pires's performance was her ability to startle, to make music that is as familiar and comfortable as a warm glove sound fresh, even strange.

Clarity of articulation was the key to Pires's stunning performance of Mozart's Sonata in B flat major K333. Her attention to phrasing was total (the synopses in the development section of the first movement, for example, were brilliantly pointed), but the result was unfussy and the broader interpretative canvas was only enhanced by such details.

Here, as throughout the programme, which also included Schumann's *Three Romances* Op 28 in an account full of rhapsodic energy, Pires was a master of contrast — as, for instance, in the contained elegance of Mozart's last-movement Rondo theme juxtaposed with the thunder of its mock-cadenza, or the sudden passion that erupted in a minor key episode in the otherwise mellow *Andante Cantabile*. This ability to change, in an instant, both tone quality and character reflects Pires's absolute technical control and lends her performances greatness.

TESS KNIGHTON

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## Matthew Parris



■ The everyday features of our lives change before our very eyes, before we even notice

Where have hitch-hikers gone? I have always offered lifts but, driving an empty car onto the M1 the other day, I reflected on how seldom now one sees those hopefuls with cardboard notices saying "Leeds". Ever since I hitched as a young man, this has struck me as a sensible way for the enterprising and the skint to travel: a fuel-efficient and "green" mode of transport.

So why is hitch-hiking dying out? I have no reason to believe it has become more dangerous, though we do make an increasing fuss about danger. Are the poor so much richer than they were? Or does a culture in parts of which it is almost the vogue to beg for money now regard it as demeaning to beg a ride? This is just one of many once-familiar features of our lives whose quiet exit is hardly noticed until, one day, you wake up and wonder where they've gone. Unobtrusively, they have made their excuses and left.

Sometimes a death goes almost unremarked. An individual who has been long retired and sunk from public view passes away, perhaps in August when we are abroad. Then, years later, we say "I wonder where so-and-so is these days?"

Oh, she's been dead years, didn't you know?" And so it is, not just with people, but with things: with words (who is a spinster any more? with habits, practices, gadgets — with ideas, even. Where, for instance, are the dark, starry skies of our youth? Retreating, as every new column of orange sodium street lighting marches across Britain.

And where did pyjamas go? I wore some last week, for the first time in years, and thought what a good idea they were. Like clockwork alarm clocks, gold top milk, NHS dentists, top-loading washing machines, men in hats and children cycling to school, they slip, one by one, from our lives. Sometimes the reasons are obvious. We do not have to ask why it's ages since we saw greaseproof toilet paper, a Tardis police phone box, or blotting paper: why, taking a record from my collection of LPs, I forget how to play them; or why you hardly see children playing in the street any more. But the reasons for some of the disappearances are more mysterious. A decade or more ago (as I recall) all the traffic-lights in London used to have *flam-beaux* — flaming beacons, in cast iron — proudly mounted on top. As a child I used to believe that these represented lions' tails, but lions' tails or torches, they were a noble and stylish ornament to the street furniture of our metropolises. Some ghastly local government person must have decreed that these fripperies

**Zebra crossings, two-tone cars, dial telephones, hitch-hikers — where are they now?**

Dad also thought stereo record-players would be a nine-day wonder, because the aim of every great conductor was to produce a unified sound. Where are mono music centres now? Like black-and-white TV sets, telegrams and postal orders, they have made their excuses and left. Telex, I think, will be the next to go.

Two-tone cars, the top half painted a different shade from the lower, have gone too. Why? I rather liked them. Also gone are bench front seats and steering-column gear-changes, yet I can remember when gear-sticks on the floor were thought old-fashioned. And why are babies' prams disappearing? They are, you know, along with tartan pull-along shopping trolleys. The reason's by no means clear.

More perplexing still is the extinction of Avril. In the 1950s almost everybody was called Avril. Now I know only one. Have the others all died?

The recollection of so many old friends, plucked from us, induces melancholy. And several other friends are putting on their coats as I write: telephones you dial rather than stab; typewriters; cheques ... doomed, all doomed.

So what will be next to go? Newspapers? The Internet edition of The Times is now available on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

The Labour leader promises radical change, and seems to mean it, but how will he behave in adversity?

Michael Heseltine has become the spin-bowler of the Tory party. He trundles up to the wicket, his arms flapping, looking like one of the battered old professionals who played for Northants or Glamorgan in the years before the war. Unfortunately his googly is so obvious that a tailend batsman would be able to spot it wearing dark glasses in a thunderstorm.

Yesterday he was trying to persuade David Frost that "three weeks of pounding" had knocked Tony Blair of his perch. The Tories are making themselves ridiculous by running a knocking personal campaign so long before a general election, and only ten days before the Scott report is published. They would do much better to stick to issues of policy, on which their case is stronger.

Tony Blair may have rather more to fear from his friends than his enemies. The latest issue of *The New Yorker* has a long and favourable profile of Tony Blair, by Sidney Blumenthal. He is a perceptive journalist, makes a number of good points, and quotes a remark I had forgotten from Tony Blair's speech to last October's Labour Party conference. Even then, Blair was able to mock the various and incompatible attempts the Tories had made to pin a label on him. "It has been hard, I know. Hard for me sometimes. Last year I was in Stalin. From Disneyland to dictatorship in six short months."

Yet Blumenthal casts Blair in a role which is, I think, equally misconceived. As an American commentator, he naturally relates British politics to his American experience, and specifically he treats Tony Blair as though he were the British Bill Clinton. If that were true, it would be a disaster. Tony Blair promises to change Britain. The changes he has

made in the Labour Party are only a preliminary to that. Whatever view one takes of President Clinton, he is not a radical in that sense. If new Labour turns out to be the same as the Clinton White House, Tony Blair will have failed in his own terms. Indeed Sidney Blumenthal sees this. Blair in power would not be checked and balanced; with a certain majority, he could propose and dispose. The experiment that Clinton proposed at the beginning of his Administration, but which was frustrated, might therefore be tested first in Blair's Britain.

The Clinton experiment has indeed been a failure. But the Blair experiment is not at all the same, and Blair himself is not Clinton. This is a sensitive issue for those of us who can remember the 1960s, because we have already been conned once by Labour. Harold Wilson made rather similar claims to Tony Blair's, but he did not deliver, or seriously try to deliver, what he promised in Opposition. If new Labour turned out to be a return to the Harold Wilson style of social democracy, it would be a disaster. Equally, Bill Clinton has not kept his promises of 1992: it is a polite euphemism to say that his "experiment" has been "frustrated". So the question is whether Tony Blair is another politician like Clinton or Wilson, or whether, for better or worse, he is a radical who means seriously what he says about changing the country.

## Getting to know the real Mr Blair

In 1962, a few months before his death, I had my last lunch with Hugh Gaitskell, the Labour leader whom I have most admired and trusted. He had been defeated in his attempt to abolish Clause Four, an issue on which Tony Blair was to succeed more than 30 years later. He was confident, however, that he would win the next election, whenever it might come. He talked about the difficulty of changing the Labour Party: he had loyal support from some of the younger men, including

Hugh Gaitskell had, and the same sense that the values of the Labour Party must not be overturned by out-of-date ways of achieving them. Both men believed that political values are permanent — and their values are very similar — but that methods have to be changed, and may have to be changed completely.

There are obvious ways in which Tony Blair does not resemble Hugh Gaitskell. Hugh had the mind of a first class academic, and loved to teach. In the mid 1950s, when I was a lonely young lobby correspondent for the *Financial Times* somewhat out of my depth, and he was Shadow Chancellor, I remember him giving me impromptu tutorials on the machinery of the Finance Bill, which must have kept the readers of the *FT* unusually well informed. Tony Blair makes his arguments, more like a barrister who wants to persuade the jury. But the two men are certainly the most alike of Labour leaders, perhaps best defined as radical social democrats.

Partly because they happened to look alike, Hugh Gaitskell used to be compared to the Younger Pitt — some of Gillray's cartoons of Pitt could have been taken for Hugh. This, rather than Disraeli's One Nation, is the temperamental tradition in politics to which Tony Blair belongs. Disraeli was much more the phrase-maker and poseur. Pitt and Blair

have the same element of youth, though not to the same degree. There is the same attachment to ideas of policy, and to the people who share those ideas. In 1785, Daniel Pultney wrote about William Pitt, "His living and conversing with a very small circle, and acting only on abstract general principles, will, I foresee, involve him at some time or other in difficulties."

Both Hugh and Tony, like Pitt, had or have a small group of friends focused around common ideas: so did another radical politician, Margaret Thatcher. All four of them have the capacity to involve themselves in difficulties.

Pitt was radical: one cannot read his great speech of December 3, 1798, in which he first introduced income tax, without seeing how radical his mind was. He also had the sense that political strength is built by overcoming rather than evading obstacles, which is part of the radical politician's creed — of Margaret Thatcher's even more than of Tony Blair's. Blair still has too many enemies in his own party, just as Margaret Thatcher always had in hers.

During a debate in October 1796, William Pitt suddenly flared up as Hugh Gaitskell used to, at something Charles James Fox had said: "Of the virtues to be acquired in the school of adversity, the Right Honourable Gentleman only mentioned those of moderation and forbearance. There are other virtues of no less importance which are to be acquired under a reverse of fortune — they are the virtues of adversity endured and adversity resisted; of adversity encountered and adversity surmounted." I think Tony Blair will suffer adversity — probably more than he can yet perceive. I do not think he will particularly seek to avoid it. I am sure he will endure and resist it; whether he will be able to overcome it, only time and events will tell.

### William Rees-Mogg

Roy Jenkins and Tony Crosland, but could not rely on any of his senior colleagues, particularly Harold Wilson or George Brown. "If I could rely on even one of them, the whole situation would be different."

Tony Blair is much better placed than that: in particular, Gordon Brown is a rock compared to George Brown. But Blair leaves the same impression as I remember from Hugh Gaitskell. I saw Tony Blair recently after I returned from Hong Kong; we met to discuss the Far East, which he had also recently visited. I found the same sense of urgency that

## It will be Europe that matters

Peter Riddell assesses the make-up of the Tory party after the election

Ideology is a much overrated influence within the Tory party. Desire for office and re-election, the pressure of events, generational changes and long-term social and economic trends all matter as much, and often more. Most Tory MPs are not very ideological, or even factional. Consequently, the party is likely to change much less after the next election, win or lose, than is commonly assumed — with the important, and possibly critical, exception of the rising tide of Euro-scepticism.

Even at the height of Margaret Thatcher's powers, in 1989, Professor Philip Norton, a leading taxonomist of MPs' views, reckoned that no more than one in five Tory MPs was a committed Thatcherite. The same could be said now of the hard-core Euro-sceptics. The 1992 intake of Tory MPs has never behaved with the ideological zealotry and class of House Republicans elected in November 1994, who have now even challenged the authority of Newt Gingrich, their Robespierre.

Much of the current discussion about One Nation Toryism therefore misses the point. In the current issue of *Prospect* magazine, Ian Gilmour offers a typically elegant lament for the failure of the Tory Left and its complicity in "the right-wingery" of the Major Government, arguing that the Left was beguiled by John Major's humane rhetoric. The Gilmour approach has in turn infuriated the more fervent Portliss and Redwoodites, who accuse the Government of having shifted to the left at the last reshuffle.

Both the Left and Right of the party, to use terms the committed minority understand, confuse style



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

for substance. They underrate the extent to which a new domestic policy consensus has developed since 1979. Indeed, the isolation under Margaret Thatcher of the old politician "wets", such as Gilmour, in the early 1980s owed as much as to the rejection of Keynesian demand management by the younger generation of Tories as to her shrewd tactics. The new Toryism embraces a belief in deregulation, privatisation, quasi-market disciplines in public services and slimming of the State through a series of incremental changes. Many of these aims, particularly the last, have been hard to achieve. But they are common to much of the party, from, say, Peter Lilley to Stephen Dorrell. This was strikingly recognised in the "Asian tigers" lecture last October by Chris Patten, once the rising hope of the Tory paternalists, who now advo-

cates reducing the scope of the State. Kenneth Clarke is often held up as the last great defender of a One Nation approach. And so he is, in the sense that he rejects the calls of some free-market think-tanks for a shift to an American-style insurance system. His acknowledgement of the limits of any medium-term reduction in the share of public spending has received much attention. But as a minister he initiated many of the most controversial changes in health and education, and has presided over very tight squeezes on public spending.

Mr Major, far from rejecting the domestic programme of the Thatcher era, has maintained and implemented it — as is shown by a valuable study, *Contemporary British Conser-*

vation (just published by Macmillan), Steve Ludlam and Martin Smith, the joint editors from Sheffield University, argue that the Major administration has been most faithful in those areas where Thatcherism was incomplete, such as Civil Service reform and trickier privatisations such as rail and coal.

This approach appears to be shared by most new Tory candidates in winnable seats ("appears" because many have no very clear-cut views). At most, there seems to have been a modest shift to the loyalist Right in the selections. Several rightwingers have taken new seats, and well-known leftwingers have been replaced by committed rightwingers (such as Sir Julian Critchley by Gerald Howarth at Aldershot). But in other cases, it is more of a shift of generation and style, while several

Centre-Left candidates have been chosen, in some cases to succeed rightwingers.

Some able candidates on the free-market Right have not yet been selected, notably Michael Fallon, the former Education Minister, and John Bercow, an energetic special adviser. They have been on shortlists, chosen by a small group of committed activists, but the final decision lies with the wider party membership, which is generally less ideological. Hence, the broader mix of Right and Left candidates, who have been chosen as much for their personalities and career records as for their views.

Moreover, even if the Tories lose the election, changes will be limited by what financial managers call a flight to quality, that is a shift by sitting MPs to safer seats. This has been exemplified by Cabinet ministers in constituencies being split by the boundary changes opting for the safer portion. They include Brian Mawhinney, Stephen Dorrell and Peter Lilley; while Sir George Young, James Arbuthnot and Eric Forth are among a dozen MPs moving to entirely different and safer seats.

The identikit new candidates, like the average MP, supports cuts in public spending and taxes, without putting forward the radical Right's plans for cutting back state provision of health and education. He, and in a few cases she, favours more police and tougher sentencing, without necessarily backing the return of capital punishment. He is strongly loyalist, but is also generally Euro-sceptic. Indeed the biggest shift at the election will be the replacement of strong pro-Europeans in their sixties by sceptics in their late thirties and forties. Some pro-Europeans have been picked, including former and current MEPs, but they are exceptions.

Almost whatever the result, the election will see a further reduction in the pro-European forces. In the battle for the future leadership and direction of the party, however, the Tories' deep divisions about Europe are likely to matter far more than their broad consensus on domestic policy. It always comes back to Europe.

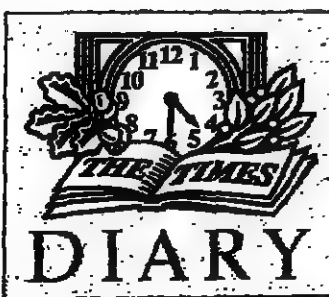
## Pardon me?

AS William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, fights for his political future over his involvement in the arms-to-Iraq affair, his trusty special adviser, David Rutley, who has been an indispensable support to him over his Scott-induced tribulations, is involved in a political struggle of his own.

He has joined the race for selection for a Conservative seat before the general election, but finds himself competing with another Treasury colleague, the similarly named David Rutley. The two Davids — telephone callers to the Treasury are advised to enunciate clearly — are each hoping to be selected as the prospective Conservative candidate for Buckingham.

Rutley — who is slightly larger than Rutley and likes to play golf — lost out to Norman Lamont recently in Harrogate, and is special adviser to the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke.

David Rutley — a sinewy type who likes rock-climbing — followed Waldegrave to the Treasury as special adviser, having been with him in beleaguered days at the



Cabinet Office and Ministry of Agriculture.

Neither will be drawn on the phonetic confusions of their names. Rutley only says tactfully, "I am higher up the alphabet than Mr Rutley."

### Tee time

AFTER the royal flamingos were last week massacred by a rogue fox, who padded over the frozen lake in the grounds of Buckingham Palace and ravaged the fluorescent flock, golfers have been suffering from similar vulpine antics. Near the 18th hole at the Roe-

hampton golf course, right in front of the clubhouse, a fox appeared and started to speculate. But then as the former City of London Sheriff, Jonathan Charkham, tried to tee off in a competition on Saturday, the fox picked up his ball and carried it over to a bunker and dropped it in. The crowd roared with laughter and Charkham reclaimed his ball, but the animal decided to stay and watch.

The fox's gaze proved distracting. "Unfortunately Charkham played the shot straight into the same bunker," says a sympathetic observer.

Prince Edward, who attended the England v Wales five nations championship match at Twickenham on Saturday without his innamorata Sophie Rhys-Jones, officially opened the new ERIC room. The England Rugby International Club, open only to those who have played for England, is said to have a "nightclubby" atmosphere, which may be why the Prince stayed longer there than expected and had to be prised away for the official lunch.

### Modest means

MAYA FLICK is currently comingling her divorce settlement from the Mercedes-Benz her Friedrich

Christian "Mick" Flick through the British courts, and claims she can't manage on £9 million. But according to her brother, Maya is really a woman of simple tastes, even though the judge balked at a request for £4,000 a year to look after her Labrador.

In an interview in the forthcoming edition of *Harpers & Queen*,



Maya prefers her 2CV, though the other car is a Ferrari

Count Alexander Schönburg says loyally of his sister: "Her favourite car is a 2CV, while her husband drives a Ferrari. The divorce settlement gives her under a million pounds to furnish two houses in England plus a holiday chalet in Klosters. Mick would spend that on a Louis XVI chest of drawers. Even his ashtrays are antiques."

### Taste trials

AFTER the opening last week of *The Fields of Ambrosia*, a show which finds fun in people being fried in electric chairs, I have news of another musical of breathtaking tastelessness bound for the London stage. A French company is negotiating with producers to bring *D-Day: The Musical* into the West End.

One scene takes the form of a duet "which is a mixture of words and cries of grief and pain". Another episode, in which soldiers witness a glutton stuffing his face, concludes with them "vomiting in unison at the end of the scene". But the jolliest scene occurs before the troops even land in Normandy. "This scene will be treated with humour even if its theme is one of awful suffering from seasickness," runs the cheerful summary, arguing bewilderingly that "this unex-

pected use of humour surprises the spectator and will thus serve to amplify the horror of the situation". Ah, the Gallic joie de mourir!

### Frisky biz

BUNTY LEWIS, the stalwart chairman of the Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball committee, which raises money for the hospital, is hanging up her dancing shoes.

Bunty — who has shepherded dozens of debs, including the superbly named Minky Sloane, down the grand staircase at the Grosvenor House in their long white frocks — has been an imposing figure on the social scene for seven years, since she resurrected the ball. But ill-health has forced her to take a less demanding role.

"I am going to be joint president with Lady Robson but the Countess of St Andrews will be chairman," she says. "I am there to help, to be her blotting-paper." Lady St Andrews, the former Sylvia Tomaselli, was a tutor at Cambridge, and after dealing with unruly undergraduates during the 1980s, will have no trouble keeping the frisky debs in line.

● If the Prime Minister speaks on the telephone to a woman late at night — as the Duke of Edinburgh



The Countess of St Andrews

does — it is likely to be to his sister, Pat Dossy. The 65-year-old widow, who brought her children up on her own, has admitted to a series of late-night chats with her little brother, in which she advised him to end the Tory crusade against single mothers. Her rare public pronouncements are a pleasing contrast to Terry Major-Balke's enthusiastic but interminable chunterings.

P.H.S





## A HEAVY TREAD

True German leadership would face the facts about EMU

For a German Chancellor even to hint, in Belgium of all countries, that where German jackboots twice marched this century they could march again unless Europe follows Germany's federal route-map is worse than infelicitous: it is contrary to Germany's own interests. Helmut Kohl has never been a man for the subtle nuance; his is an all-or-nothing federal vision of Europe and he has never made any bones about it. In substance, his "nationalism is war" speech at the University of Louvain last week added little to his well-known view that Europe faces a straight choice between "continued integration" and catastrophe. But the more Herr Kohl insists on doing things his way, the more attention he draws to an awkward fact. Among the European Union's major players, Germany alone believes wholeheartedly in its federal destiny.

Herr Kohl's motives are nothing but honourable. He is convinced that unless German power is constrained within a federal EU, fear and resentment of German power will reignite nationalism among its neighbours, particularly France, and make war on the Continent possible at some point in the future. He also believes that among German politicians, he alone has the determination and the persuasive power to bring about "irreversible" European integration.

It does not follow that a "European Germany" can be secured only on German terms. If Herr Kohl believes that fear will force the rest of Europe into line, he is in serious error. There is nothing either illegitimate or dangerous about the British view, reiterated yesterday by Michael Portillo, that nation states and nationalism are not the same thing and that the way ahead is to look for "ways in which nations can collaborate together more and more".

Nobody disputes that, from its origin, the driving political imperative behind the EU has been to make war between its members

unthinkable. Nobody, as Mr Portillo said, "wants to go back to the sort of terrible nationalism that was unleashed in the 1930s". Herr Kohl would do better to celebrate that historic success than to utter apocalyptic warnings which give scant credit to the solid democracy that Germany has become. He will win no arguments that way, or by ignoring the increasingly fluid, creative debate about the role of the modern nation state in a stable, prosperous Europe.

Herr Kohl's antennae, so sensitive when it comes to dealing with the strategically vital matter of the West's relationship with Russia, have been blunted by his anxiety about monetary union. It is now evident that if Europe is not to plunge into recession, the Maastricht rules on deficits will have to be relaxed if the 1999 timetable is to be met. The treaty in fact permits this; but any such decision would greatly intensify the resistance of Germans to giving up the mark. Herr Kohl has always seen EMU as a means to a political end. He is convinced that the pooling of monetary sovereignty would create the basis for the federal Europe of his dreams — which is why he suspects Britain of sabotaging the project.

Irritation should not blind him to a far more present danger than warlike nationalism. Unless two conditions are met, EMU will fray the bonds of faith that underpin all democracies. There must be a genuine economic convergence, or the management of a single currency will produce nothing but dispute; and the peoples of Europe must themselves be convinced of EMU's positive benefits. Since neither of these conditions now obtains, true German leadership would consist in a courageous admission of the facts. By dismissing all doubt, Herr Kohl is at risk of sounding less than respectful of the democratic processes he set out to champion at Louvain last week. He is also at risk of creating what he fears: a divided Europe.

## THROUGH SIGNAL

Ideology never made the trains run on time

In the frosty early morning, the first scheduled private trains to run on Britain's mainline network for more than 48 years pulled into Paddington and Waterloo yesterday. Their curious passengers were duly feted by the new railway directors and a triumphant Transport Secretary. Sir George Young's relief is palpable: despite soaring costs, publicised bureaucratic absurdities and the stubborn suspicion of the travelling public, the most complex privatisation ever attempted in Britain has, at last, paid off. For the first time since 1947, regular passenger services are now being provided by private companies ready to inject their capital, innovative skills and entrepreneurial energy into a neglected, run-down but vital sector of the nation's transport network.

Yesterday's sunny mood, however, suffered a political eclipse. Less than a day before the third private company was to join the debut of Great Western and South West Trains, the Government ordered a halt to the transfer of the London, Tilbury and Southend line to private management. Suspected fraud involving the reissuing of tickets at a station shared with London Underground, thus cheating the rival company of about £30,000 a month, has severely embarrassed the Government. It could not have given opponents of privatisation a more tellingly symbolic example of the seemingly endless mishaps that have dogged this complex operation. Even Conservative MPs, champions of free enterprise, concede that transfer of the LTS line is, at present, unconscionable.

Already the incident has highlighted the dangers inherent in breaking up a network into competing units. So fierce will be the

competition for the elusive passenger that the new companies may be tempted to do down their competitors by methods more reminiscent of the pirate practices of America's railway barons than the business mores expected of today. Firmness by the Rail Regulator and intrusive enforcement of the conditions of the new leases by the franchise director will be essential.

The system, however, must now be allowed to operate. However misconceived the basic proposal to split British Rail into as many as 25 companies may have been, the legal reorganisation is now largely in place. It is as Labour also evidently believes, too late to put BR together again. Even the flotation of Railtrack, which Labour has vaguely promised to take under public control, if not actually into public ownership, now looks assured. The privatisation of the 11,000-mile network may slip from May to June; but at a knockdown price, it will be in private hands by the General Election, and may already have received its first injection of much-needed private investment. Three more operating companies will by then be running trains, so that almost half of all rail passengers will be able to judge the difference.

The yardstick by which privatisation must be measured is still that it brings more money and wider expertise to revive the nation's railways. Sensibly, the Government has now overcome some of its prejudices against BR, so that a new generation of managers with radical ideas may be allowed to compete for the remaining franchises. Ideology never made the trains run on time; from today the test will be whether the trains to the West and the South-West are better run, more comfortable and fuller than before.

## THE HEALING TOUCH

Medicine is widening its horizons with alternative ideas

More and more Britons are entrusting their minds and bodies to the practitioners of alternative medicine. According to recent estimates, one in three people has undergone acupuncture or hypnosis, made use of aromatherapy or herbal medicine, visited chiropractors or osteopaths. Four out of every five who do so are convinced they have received lasting benefit. Indeed, the use of alternative medicine is rising in Britain faster than in any other European country.

The kind of treatment offered has long been available on the Continent as an adjunct to orthodox medicine; yet for more than 40 years it has been shunned by the medical establishment in Britain. The very word "alternative" has suggested something beyond the pale of scientifically-based medicine. The profession has stigmatised all such practices as untested and unproven, akin to faith healing and verging on quackery. The fact that the therapies offered have for years proved remarkably effective with a large number of people has been dismissed as irrelevant: opponents argue that any treatment which patients believe is doing them good will improve their response to conventional medicine.

The banning of alternative medicine from the lexicon of general practice was made absolute by the setting up of the National Health Service. The committees charged with financing the NHS needed to know what medicine could be deemed mainstream, and therefore eligible for funding, and what was fringe and best left to the pri-

ivate sector. Britain, unlike France or Germany, had little tradition of "taking the waters" and such treatments — indeed almost all prophylactic cures — have been seen as a socially reprehensible pampering of the rich.

With the demise of the NHS monolith, attitudes are changing. Doctors who can control their own budgets are more open to innovation and to the traditions of other countries. Eastern medicine used only to excite scepticism: acupuncture was regarded as offering little that relaxation and regular exercise could not also supply. All now command respect.

Perhaps the most intriguing recourse to alternative medicine is the growing, but still largely inexplicable, role of hypnosis. Some GPs now achieve extraordinary success using this powerful and unpredictable instrument, and the Society of Medical and Dental Hypnosis runs courses and conferences to compare clinical experience. They worry about the unmonitored use of hypnosis by mesmerists making extravagant claims; the ethical implications are challenging. Indeed all doctors would like to bring the treatment proposed by unregistered practitioners of alternative medicine within the remit of supervised health care. While they were identified with quackery, that was impossible. Now that doctors, patients and medical insurers are looking at this huge field more seriously, it is both possible and necessary.

## Why civil servants require anonymity

From Mr M. G. Power

Sir, Mr Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, told civil servants in a recent lecture at the Civil Service College (report, January 24) that they must be prepared to do more to explain government policies.

It is the duty of ministers to explain policies. Explanations invite questions; questions invite argument. Many government policies are controversial, some bitterly opposed by the Opposition in Parliament. Follow Mr Heseltine's words to their logical conclusion and we shall see on TV a permanent secretary crossing swords with Miss Clare Short on the privatisation of British Rail.

He would probably do that very well, perhaps even more persuasively than ministers. But it would brand him as a political animal in the eyes of the public. Moreover, to be seen as the public protagonist of a policy which is anathema to one party might make it difficult to serve the new government after a general election.

In the 1930s Sir Warren Fisher and Sir Edward Bridges wrote minutes about the role of the civil servant. These declared that it was the job of ministers to explain government policy; a civil servant has no power of his own, everything he says or does is in the name of a minister.

I think it was Bridges who went further by emphasising that to preserve the political impartiality of the Civil Service, civil servants should be anonymous. Anonymity is a virtue for civil servants, not a weakness.

Some might argue that the words of distinguished civil servants 60 years ago are out of date. They are only out of date if the Government is deliberately aiming to politicise the Civil Service, or if, in their weakness, they need to employ officials to do their job for them.

Yours sincerely,  
M. G. POWER  
(Under Secretary, Civil Service Department, 1977-79),  
Warcom Way,  
Barnham Heath Road,  
Compton, Guildford, Surrey,  
January 29.

## Newbury bypass

From the Chairman of The Wildlife Trusts

Sir, Councillor Simon Melville, in his letter of January 25, states that none of the five national environmental organisations which were co-signatories to Dr Simon Lyner's letter of January 19 appeared at the Newbury bypass public inquiry in 1988.

In fact, The Wildlife Trusts were represented by BRONT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists Trust) and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, who jointly presented substantial and detailed written evidence on our behalf.

At the inquiry the Nature Conservancy and The Wildlife Trusts recommended that, in the event of the highly undesirable route now under construction being chosen, the road should be carried on stilts where it will cross the superb Kennet and Lambourn valleys — a view that has been strongly endorsed by the National Rivers Authority.

That option has been rejected. Embankments are now to be constructed across the river corridors, which will be severely detrimental to many plants and animals. Others, which are now making a welcome return to this region, will be particularly vulnerable to the heavy traffic as they explore the road embankments and seek routes along the riversides.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN CRANE, Chairman,  
The Wildlife Trusts,  
The Green, Witham Park,  
Waterside South, Lincoln.

## Displacing Bristol

From Mr Charles Wallis-Newport

Sir, According to my reckoning, your description of Bristol nesting "between the Quantocks and the Mendips" (Weekend, January 27) places our great seaport of the West some 25 miles to the south of the River Avon and in the general vicinity of that jewel of the Somerset Riviera, Burnham-on-Sea.

Yours, somewhat disoriented,  
CHARLES WALLIS-NEWPORT,  
41 Burnham Drive, Bleadon Hill,  
Weston-super-Mare, Avon.

## Ways to fall asleep

From Wing Commander R. Dauncey

Sir, I can confirm your interesting article about the arousal from sleep by different types of noise ("A jumbo disturbs us less than a baby's cry", *Mind and Matter*, January 28).

In 1949 my parents lived in Brunswick, Germany, under the turning point for the RAF aircraft flying into Berlin along the central corridor during the airlift.

On arrival for the summer holidays, I remember spending the first hour fascinatedly watching the aeroplanes (all noisy, mostly 4-engine piston/propeller-driven) coming in at about 3,000ft — one every three minutes. From then on I did not notice them, day or night, except when there was a change, say, in engine noise or if there was a gap of a few minutes longer between aircraft.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Healthcare services under pressure

From Professor Sir Roy Calne, FRCS

Sir, All over Britain — as your report today makes only too clear — hospitals are under pressure. In addition to the critical shortage of casualty doctors highlighted by your report, patients with cancer and dangerous vascular conditions are having their operations cancelled because of the shortage of intensive-care beds; some of those operated on are being transferred many miles to intensive-care beds in distant hospitals; and increased stress on the nurses who staff critical-care units is leading to premature resignations.

There can be no medical justification for these failures, and there is an urgent need for a review of the system which has created them — in particular of the distribution of intensive-care beds between hospitals, the criteria for the admission of patients, and the stressful alternation between periods of excessive and too-little work which stems largely from the "ring-fencing" of critical-care units.

Hospital administration is criticised for wasting money on the salaries of unnecessary bureaucrats and squandering time and professional expertise on useless committees. However, even if management were pared down to a minimum, a decent health service that can provide dignified care for the community will require more money and revised priorities.

This must be a dreadful thought for politicians with an election looming; but it would be preferable to acknowledge with honesty that the present state of affairs is unsatisfactory and, in some instances, a disgrace. How can I face my patients and tell them that the essential major operations for which they have been prepared both mentally and physically are cancelled yet again?

Yours sincerely,  
ROY CALNE,  
University of Cambridge  
Clinical School,  
Department of Surgery,  
Addenbrooke's Hospital,  
Hills Road, Cambridge,  
February 2.

From Mr P. J. M. Stoney

Sir, The requirement that every trust hospital should show a 6 per cent rate of return on capital appears to be driving the entire NHS hospital system.

In order to achieve this rate, trust boards have to adjust their service delivery levels, wards have to be closed, staffing levels adjusted downwards,

## Asylum Bill

From Mr Nick Hardwick and Mr John Whitaker

Sir, February 5 will mark a lamentable change in Britain's honourable history of tolerance. From that day welfare support will be withdrawn from many asylum-seekers newly arrived in the United Kingdom.

Oxam and the Refugee Council have direct knowledge of the violence and persecution which daily drive thousands of people to leave their countries of origin and seek safety abroad. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported last November that the number of people fleeing from war has risen to 27 million, a rise of 10 million in the last 10 years.

In January the High Commissioner expressed grave concern at the UK Government's decision to withdraw welfare benefits, saying that this could

equipment replacements postponed, surgical procedures delayed, late payment to suppliers authorised. Reduce the 6 per cent rate and healthcare service levels can be raised; increase it, and provision declines.

The trouble with this way of doing things is that patients are subjected to sudden changes in standards of service because of supply-side constraints.

The Department of Health and its Treasury paymasters need to consider what rate of return on capital would deliver healthcare outcomes superior to those currently attained.

Yours faithfully,  
P. J. M. STONEY (Chairman,  
Finance Committee, Broadgreen  
Hospital NHS Trust, 1991-95),  
Liverpool Macroeconomic  
Research Limited,  
University of Liverpool,  
PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX,  
January 29.

From the President of the  
Hospital Consultants and  
Specialists Association

Sir, The news of large pay increases received by NHS trust chief executives (report, February 1) should be no surprise, but creates an understandable irritation to other healthcare workers who have not been so fortunate.

The need to operate 450 or so local health services in competition with each other has inevitably created the need for experienced and expensive executives to manage the system. Any reduction in the expertise of numbers of the "men in grey suits" will cause NHS reforms to fail.

We predict that NHS trusts will soon appreciate the advantages of merging with adjacent trusts to create large providers of healthcare for sections of the country. Significant economies in management costs could then be made to the advantage of patient care.

Perhaps these healthcare conglomerates will once again be called "Regional Health Authorities" and become the start of a National Health Service, with a uniform provision for all. Then, staff could be paid on a national scale, with efficient and simple national negotiations.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBIN LOVEDAY, President,  
Hospital Consultants and  
Specialists Association,  
Number One, Kingsclere Road,  
Oxford, Basingstoke, Hampshire,  
February 1.

place the UK in violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaty obligations.

We believe that these benefit changes, and other measures being proposed under the new Asylum and Immigration Bill, will increase the distress and suffering of thousands of the most vulnerable people in Britain.

Rather than run the risk of being forced to alter the legislation if it is challenged in the courts, the Government should reform its procedures for dealing with asylum claims, of its own volition and out of a basic sense of humanity.

Yours etc,  
NICK HARDWICK  
(Director, Refugee Council),  
JOHN WHITAKER  
(Deputy Director, Oxam),  
Oxam,  
274 Banbury Road, Oxford,  
February 2.

## Drivers' eye tests

From Mr Jack Arkinstall

Sir, Most drivers I know, and they include ambulance and volunteer ambulance car drivers as well as many private car drivers, wear glasses.

I am fortunate that I do not have to wear glasses, but I am war-disabled and have to drive an electric wheelchair through narrow streets in this town with lorries thundering past me.

Never has the thought occurred to me that a driver's glasses might fall off (letters, January 28, 31). But it has occurred to me that the disgraceful state of the roads could and does lead to accidents.

Yours sincerely,  
JACK ARKINSTALL,  
90 Beach Road,  
Selsey,  
Chichester, West Sussex,  
February 1.

## Dance in London

From the Editor of Dance Europe

Sir, How ironic that Virginia Bottomley should have chosen to present us with a logo featuring dancers in new to sell London (report, *Travel News*, February 1).

Unless she does something now to help talented young dancers to get the training they need — funding for dance students by means of discretionary grants is now virtually non-existent — there will scarcely be any dance in London in five years' time.

Perhaps her design team should start work on something more apt — featuring businessmen in suits?

Yours sincerely,  
EMMA MANNING,  
Editor,  
Dance Europe,  
PO Box 326, London N5 2JL,  
January 30.

From Mrs Clare Powell

Sir, I was surprised to see the "Glyndebourne method" of theatre seating recommended by your correspondent, Mr J. A. C. Martin (letter, January 31).

It seems extraordinary, in a newly designed theatre, that tickets marked "limited vision" should have to be sold for the seats at the sides.

Yours faithfully,  
CLARE POWELL,  
Brook House, White Hart Lane,  
Woodstreet Village,  
Nr Guildford, Surrey.

From Mr Jonathan Kreeger

Sir, On the subject of theatre seating: for reasons beyond my control, I have no view whatever.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN KREEGER  
(5ft 11in),  
Switland Cottage,  
Old Boars Hill, Oxford,  
February 2.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 3: The Prince Edward this afternoon attended the Rugby Union Match between England and Wales at Twickenham, Middlesex.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 3: The Princess Royal this morning departed the Falkland Islands for Ascension Island. Her Royal Highness this evening arrived at Ascension Island, was received by the Administrator (Mr Roger Huxley) and attended a Reception at the Exiles Club.

**SANDRINGHAM**  
February 4: Divine Service was held in West Newton Parish Church this morning.

The Reverend George Hall presided at the service. Mr Frederick Waite was re-

ceived by The Queen when Her Majesty visited him at the insignia of the Royal Victorian Order.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 4: The Prince Edward, Patron, Scottish Badminton Union, this afternoon attended the final of the Scottish National Championships at the Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Norman Irons, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 4: The Princess Royal this morning arrived at Royal Air Force Base Norton from Ascension Island following the conclusion of Her Royal Highness's visit to the Falkland Islands.

## Birthdays today

Mr Jack Aspinwall, MP, 63; Mr Robert Atkins, MP, 50; Sir Norman Blacklock, 45; Mr Jasper Clutterbuck, executive chairman, Morland and Company, 61; Major-General Sir Simon Cooper, Master of Her Majesty's Household, 60; Mr Ian Findlay, former chairman, Lloyd's, 78; Lord Gibson, 80; Mr Clifford Haigh, journalist, 90; Mrs Molly Hattersley, educationist, 63; Miss Susan Hill, novelist and playwright, 54; Professor Sir Alan Hodgkin, OM, former Master, Trinity College, Cambridge, 82; the Hon Douglas Hogg, QC, MP, 51; General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, 60;

Mr M.E.P. Jones, director, National Museums of Scotland, 45; Mr Dennis Kennedy, chairman, Honeywell, 61; Mr David Martin, MP, 51; Lord Justice Morritt, 58; Mr Frank Muir, writer and broadcaster, 76; Professor A.M. Neville, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of York, 73; Miss Charlotte Rampling, actress, 50; Canon Colin Semper, former Provost of Coventry, 58; Sir Michael Simpson-Orebar, diplomat, 64; Sir Rodney Sweetnam, President, Royal College of Surgeons, 60; Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, 51; Leslie Young, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 71.

## Nature notes

In spite of the weather, cock greenfinches are beginning to quarrel with each other over the females in the flock, and pairs will soon be forming. Some cock birds are also making their long, stinging spring call. Song-thrushes fell silent during the coldest weather, but some are now singing again; the first chaffinches are also singing. Collared doves are making their triple coo on roofs and television aerials.

But the countryside is still thronged with winter visitors from the sub-Arctic. Waxwings have now spread over the whole of the British Isles, and have been observed in Dublin town centre. Redwings are very common at present, and are feeding on the last remaining hawthorn berries: they are like song-thrushes, but when they fly they show a red flash under their wings. Field catskins, or



The redwing

"lamb's tails" are swinging loose, but are still green: they will slowly turn yellow as the pollen develops in them. The pollen will be blown onto the female flowers, which are tiny red stars, just beginning to form on the same trees as the catkins.

Leaves are opening on the corky, grey elder twigs: it is a tree that thrives among humans, since it grows best on disturbed earth.

DJM

## Memorial service

**Lady Killick**  
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lady (John) Killick was held on Saturday at St Peter's, Southborough, Kent. The Rev Clive Portman officiated and gave an address.

**Memorial meeting**  
Professor Donald Coleman gave a memorial meeting for Professor Donald Coleman, formerly Fellow of Pembroke College and Professor of Economic History at Cambridge University, was held on Saturday at Pembroke College.

**Luncheon**  
Hertfordshire Lieutenant Colonel James Bolton presided at a luncheon given by the Deputy Lieutenants of Hertfordshire on Saturday at Knebworth House to mark the tenth anniversary of the appointment of Mr Simon Bowles as Lord Lieutenant.

**School news**  
Claymore School celebrates its centenary this year. Founded by Alex Devine at Enfield in February 1896, it moved to Iwerne Minster, Dorset in 1933. In commemoration there will be a service of thanksgiving in Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday, March 2, at 11.00am. This will feature the combined choir and musicians of the Senior and Preparatory Schools; the Bishop of Salisbury will give an address. Old Claymores and friends of the school are welcome to attend; they are asked to contact the school to confirm attendance (Telephone 01747 312015). Further events in the centenary calendar include the Centenary Ball on May 25 and a Summer Fair on June 23.

**Tudor Hall School**  
Tudor Hall School (founded 1850) celebrates 50 years at Wykeham Park this year. Old Tudorians, former staff and friends of the school who would like to share events to be held on Saturday, May 12, to which they are all welcome, should write sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Tudor Hall, Wykeham Park, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9UR.

**The Earl of Warwick**  
A memorial service for the Earl of Warwick will be held at St Mary's, Warwick, on Monday, February 19, at 12.15pm. Travel arrangements: a train departs Marylebone at 4.45am and arrives at Warwick at 11.30am. A coach will be waiting at Warwick station to take people to the church and return them after the service.



**Caution, friendly otters crossing**  
terminal at Sallom Voe. But they have failed to slow the death toll among otters, whose numbers have gradually risen on Shetland to more than 1,000.

## Caution, friendly otters crossing

against a total United Kingdom population of 7,390. Terry Holmes, an otter expert who lives on Yell, said the bodies of up to 25 were reported by the roadside each year after being hit by cars and trucks. However, Jim Conroy, of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, said the Shetland Islands' population was "probably the healthiest in Western Europe".

## Open door provided for homeless

By KATE ALDERSON

FOR the past two years the Furness Homeless Support Group has been operating a full-time service offering food and advice to 35 daily visitors in an old draughty portable building.

However, a house, known as the Agnes McDowell Project, has now been specially converted to provide emergency accommodation and drop-in centre facilities for the homeless of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

The town is still suffering from the social fall-out of 10,000 people being made redundant over the last two years. The number of homeless people and those requiring short-term emergency accommodation has increased.

Until the Agnes McDowell Project was conceived there were no hostels in Barrow and very little prospect of finding shelter for clients as wide-ranging as teenage single mothers to middle-aged men and women, suffering temporary hardship. Jim Vince, 72,



who runs a car dealership and property company, is a member of the Furness homeless group and regularly helped with the Christmas shelter project.

Anxious for the group to secure proper premises that were not overcrowded he approached a local pensioner, William McDowell, who owned a ramshackle house standing empty in Barrow. Mr McDowell initially agreed to rent the three-storey property to

the group and then offered it for sale for a nominal amount on condition it was named after his mother, Agnes McDowell.

A sale price of £15,000 was agreed with Mr McDowell, who then said the group could borrow the money from him to purchase the property and repay him at £2,000 per year. The rebuilding and renovation work was carried out by Mr Vince's company and with a no-profit basis with much of the building material provided at discount. The top two storeys of the property have been renovated, partially paid for by £17,000 of charitable funding. The ground floor will become the day support centre with a fully fitted kitchen, dining room and offices for counselling and advice.

Food is provided by local branches of Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Asda and other local food stores. The large stores became involved after members of staff began working as volunteers with the homeless in the town.

Anne Diss, who works for

Community Action Furness, chairs the group. "This project would not have been possible without the commercial sector of Barrow," she said. "The willingness to help has been brilliant and we have only had to pay for materials and basic labour."

Mr Vince became involved in the project because of his close ties with the town: "I came here to the town in 1943 and have done well out of the place and felt I had to put something back into it," he said. "We don't have the homeless sleeping on the streets of Barrow in cardboard boxes but there is still a problem with people trying to sleep on someone else's floor or in bed-and-breakfasts. More jobs are threatened at Vickers and prospects for employment locally do not look good. We need this centre more than ever."

The Agnes McDowell Project is one of the winners of the 1995 Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by The Times and Touche Ross.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr D.E. Back and Miss A.M. Gomez**  
The engagement is announced between Daniel, younger son of Mr Erich Back, of Essex, Surrey, and Mrs Christine Back, of Quimper, France, and Amanda, daughter of Dr and Mrs F.A.R. Gomez, of Reigate, Surrey.

**Mr A.J. Brown and Miss C.S. Neame**  
The engagement is announced between Alisdair, son of Mr and Mrs James Brown, of Selkirk, Camille, daughter of Mr Richard Neame, of Bishopscote, Kent, and Mrs Andrea Neame, of Ryme Intrinseca, Dorset.

**Mr R.W. Furness and Miss A.F. Mubeson**  
The engagement is announced between Rupert, only son of Professor and Mrs Raymond Furness, of Bournemouth, Fife, and Fiona, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Christopher Mubeson, of Colton, Norfolk.

**Lieutenant M.H. Glenn and Miss E.L. O'Donnell**  
The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Stuart Henry Glenn, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters, only son of Mr and Mrs Ian Glenn, of Lundy, Nottinghamshire, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Niall O'Donnell, of Wendon Lofts, Suffolk, Essex.

## Marriages

**Sir Richard Rashleigh and Miss E.F.C. McGough**  
The marriage took place on Saturday in Eton College Chapel, of Sir Richard Rashleigh, son of the late Sir Henry and Lady Rashleigh, of Stowford, Devon, and Miss Emma McGough, eldest daughter of Mr John McGough and Lady Adams, and step-daughter of Sir Anthony Adams, of the Provost's Lodge, Eton. Canon D.R. Macintyre and the Rev Dr M. Clarkson officiated.

The bride was attended by Zoe Wilson, Florence Wilson, Araminta Wilson, Charlotte Emerson, Emma Howard and Edward Argles. Dr John Ogle was best man.

**Mr E.J.B. Stensfeld and Miss M.K.M. Brackenbury**  
The marriage took place on January 27, at Holme Pierrepont Church, between Mr Edward Stensfeld and Miss Mary Brackenbury.

1679: Philipp Jakob Spener, theologian, founder of pietism, Berlin, 1705; Thomas Carlyle, writer and historian, London, 1881; A.B. (Banjo) Paterson, Australian folk poet and author of *Waltzing Matilda*, 1943; George Arliss, actor, London, 1940; H.M. Tomlinson, novelist and essayist, London, 1958; Marianne Moore, poet, New York, 1972; Eric Froomberg, film producer, Suffolk, 1988.

Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville* was first performed in Rome, 1816.

The Prince of Wales was declared Prince Regent, 1817.

The RAF College at Cranwell, Lincolnshire, was founded, 1920.

Laker Airways collapsed with debts of £270 million, 1982.

BMDs: 0171 782 7272  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

## DEATHS

**GOODMAN** - Edward of Monmouth, 1911. Founder of the Action Society, and former Vice Chairman of the Bowdler Trust. Died February 2nd, aged 81. Buried at St. John's Church, London WC1.

**FRANKS** - On 2nd February, to Charles and Carol, a daughter, Eliza Harriet.

**GROSER** - On January 30th, at Aintree, Lancashire, to Jane (née Allen) and Robert, a beautiful daughter, Alice Elizabeth. Died 81.

**HADLEY** - On 27th January, at 11.45 am in Chorley, Lancashire, to Anna, a daughter, brother to Benjamin.

**MCCALLUM** - On 26th January 1996, to Jane and Alan, a daughter, Catherine Ann.

**MEDDINGS** - On 27th January 1996 to Henrietta (née Todd) and Richard, a beautiful son, James Henry Todd.

**DEATHS**  
BECKETT - On 30th January 1996, suddenly, at home, Sylvia Beckett, aged 80 years. Burial at St. Mary's Church, Churchchurch Street, London SW3 at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 14th February, followed by private cremation. No flowers.

**FARRANT** - On February 2nd 1996 peacefully John Bright Farrant. Deceased loved wife of Anthony and mother of William, Matthew and Emily. Funeral will take place at 10 am on Wednesday 7th February at St Mary The Virgin, St. John's, Northampton. All enquiries to Freeman Bros Northampton, tel: 01453 284499.

## IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

**LIVANOV** - Wilmet 81. February 1971. Fondly remembered on this 25th anniversary and always. Valerie, Chris, Gail and David.

**ROSES** - Edward Arthur, Priest, February 5th 1993 aged 81. Buried at St. John's Church, London WC1.

**WALLMAN** - Peter D.O.G. 8/12/45 - 8/2/96. The love and support of his family and friends. Buried at St. John's Church, London WC1.

**HADJOU** - Elizabeth on 2nd February, peacefully at home after short illness aged 84. Buried at St. John's Church, London WC1.

**HUTCHISON** - Patrick Hamilton O.B.E., formerly of London, died on 30th January 1996, aged 93. Buried at St. John's Church, London WC1.

**LAW** - Cecilia (née Dowd) aged 83 of Aldwick, Bognor Regis, died on 27th January 1996 in Barnes Hospital. Buried at St. John's Church, London WC1.

**MURTON WEBB** - Charles Harry, peacefully at home on February 1st aged 85. Much loved husband of the late Pat. Father of Susan and Graham. Buried at St. Mary's Church, Churchchurch Street, London SW3 at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 14th February, followed by private cremation. No flowers.

**WELSON** - Ailsie Mary, peacefully at home on February 1st aged 85. Much loved wife of the late Peter. Mother of Susan and Graham. Buried at St. Mary's Church, Churchchurch Street, London SW3 at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 14th February, followed by private cremation. No flowers.

**MEMORIAL SERVICES**  
CORY WRIGHT - A Memorial Service for Elizabeth Cory Wright O.B.E. D.L. will be held at St. Giles Church, Churchchurch Street, London SW3 at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 14th February, followed by private cremation. No flowers.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
Notice is given that the Charity Commission for England and Wales has received an application for the registration of the following charity:

**NOTICE OF HERITAGE GIVEN**  
Notice is given that the following property is the subject of a notice of heritage given to the Charity Commission for England and Wales:

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Dinner suits, evening tail suits, surplus to requirements, cheap and good.

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Belgian chocolates and a red rose, a lovely romantic gift.

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Chances from 100 of over 50 discounted upright, grand and digital pianos.

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Established 1910, 0171 935 8682 (NW1), 0181 854 4517 (SE18).

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Need your help? The BMA has a list of breeders and suppliers.

**WANTED**  
Bike, coat, hat, etc. Call for details.

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## RENTALS

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MORNING SUITS, DINNER SUITS, EVENING TAIL SUITS, surplus to requirements, cheap and good.

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Bike, coat, hat, etc. Call for details.

## FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

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MORNING SUITS, DINNER SUITS, EVENING TAIL SUITS, surplus to requirements, cheap and good.

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**THE ALTERNATIVE PIANO SALE**  
Chances from 100 of over 50 discounted upright, grand and digital pianos.

**MARKSON PIANOS**  
Established 1910, 0171 935 8682 (NW1), 0181 854 4517 (SE18).

**RENTALS**  
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**ACCESS TICKETS**  
Specialist in sold out events, 5 Nations Rugby, Bruce Springsteen, etc



## OBITUARIES

## GENE KELLY

Gene Kelly, dancer, choreographer and film actor, died in Los Angeles on February 2 aged 83. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on August 23, 1912.

THE career of Gene Kelly, which spanned four decades, was a classic American success story, with virtually no setbacks. Almost at once he established himself as a dancer without rival on screen apart from the perennial Fred Astaire, and his later work extended itself to choreography and film direction with equal success. Two, at least, of the films he starred in, choreographed and directed, *On the Town* (1949) and *Singin' in the Rain* (1952), are among the unquestioned classics of the cinema.

Yet, in spite of these triumphs it often seemed that Kelly was not a natural dancer. In the way Astaire was. There was always an awareness of the pains he was taking, the sheer hard work of brain and body which went into his performances. But this sense of physicality, of constant struggle, was an important and perhaps the most personal element of his style. It was all of a piece with the extrovert, insistently masculine quality of his dancing. It is not coincidental that one of his later television specials was called *Dancing: A Man's Game*. It was possible to find Kelly's screen personality antithetical, but not to deny him the major credit for some of the American cinema's finest films and some of its most exciting musical moments.

Gene Curran Kelly was born of Irish parents. Sent by his mother to dance school from the age of seven, he graduated early from being taught to teaching himself, and by his early twenties was running two dance schools. In 1938 he decided to try his luck on Broadway, and soon got a part as a specialty dancer in the Cole Porter musical *Leave It to Me*. From that he went on to ever bigger roles in various musical shows, and worked as dance director on several.

He first made a big impression in 1939 playing the role of Harry the Hooper in the first production of Saroyan's *The Time of Your Life*, and the following year became unmistakably a star when he played the title role in the Rodgers and Hart musical *Pal Joey*, in which he was required to sing, dance and act as the unscrupulous gigolo and would-be owner of a nightclub. It was his enormous success in this show which got him



With Debbie Reynolds in *Singin' in the Rain*

noticed by Hollywood, though curiously enough he was never called upon in Hollywood to play anything so tough and cynical. There his screen persona was to develop into something more wholesome, athletic and unmistakably all-American.

He went out to Hollywood under contract to David O. Selznick, but Selznick had no suitable role for him, and his first film was a loan-out to MGM. It was a musical, *For Me and My Gal* (1942), and in it he had a starring role, opposite Judy Garland. The teaming (repeated on subsequent occasions) was a success, the film was a success, and MGM liked their new star so much they bought up his contract. The connection was to be a long and happy one, since Kelly stayed at the same studio for the next

15 years and made 27 films for it during that time, including nearly all of his classics.

Though through the years Gene Kelly did from time to time play non-singing, non-dancing roles in straight dramas, he and everybody else felt that his special talents lay in the musical area. He began as a dancer, but already on stage he had had experience as a director and choreographer, and before long he began to fulfil these functions in the cinema too.

He began to choreograph his own numbers with *Thousands Cheer* (1943), the most memorable part of which was a dance in which he used a mop as his partner. In *Cover Girl*, made the next year on loan to Columbia, he starred opposite Rita

Hayworth and had the opportunity to develop more fully his qualities as a performer and choreographer. The film contains one of his first anthology-pieces, the "alter ego" dance in which he dances with himself in double-exposure.

Experimentation of this kind with the actual materials of the medium was to remain a continuing preoccupation with Kelly. The form to which he was to return most frequently first appears in *Anchors Aweigh* (1945), which features a sequence in which he dances in a cartoon framework, matching his actions with those of animated characters. He was to return to this not, finally, very satisfactory procedure in *Invitation to a Dance* (1952-56) and his later television version of *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Other films of these years which remain memorable include *Ziegfeld Follies* (1946), in which for the first time he danced with Fred Astaire; *The Pirate* (1948), a musical by Cole Porter in which he was happily reunited with Judy Garland; and *Living in a Big Way* (1947), a curious comedy-drama by Gregory La Cava into which were interpolated a couple of excellent numbers devised by Kelly and his regular collaborator Stanley Donen.

These two evidently wanted even more overall control over the films they worked on, and in *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* (1949) they were given it when they originated the story and collaborated on the direction, under the practised eye of Busby Berkeley. This breezy musical of life in a baseball team, with Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin as the three male principals, was obviously a sort of sketch for the following year's *On the Town*, in which Kelly and Donen for the first time received full directorial credit; it was perhaps the most innovative single film in the history of the musical.

What was really original about *On the Town* was its complete freedom of form, with song, dance and dramatic action merging almost imperceptibly into one another, each used according to the best interests of the moment.

Its refreshing use of actual locations let fresh air into the studio conventions usual at that time for the musical. If anything, the formula was improved upon in the next Kelly-Donen collaboration, *Singin' in the Rain*, a loving recreation of Hollywood in a period of transition with the coming of sound, which permitted Kelly himself to give one of his

most charming performances and create one of his most magical moments in his solo version of the title number.

A third Kelly-Donen collaboration, *It's Always Fair Weather*, followed, less successfully, in 1955, but meanwhile Kelly had branched out on his own to make *Invitation to a Dance* (1956), a feature film consisting entirely of dance episodes. This was his most cherished and personal concept but unfortunately for the most part it showed up rather cruelly the limitations of his range as a choreographer. This had been much better served in *An American in Paris* (1951), one of the most popular among his films, in which he worked as star and choreographer with Vincente Minnelli as director. It climaxed in the famous ballet sequence which remains one of the screen's most ambitious attempts to come to terms directly with the dance.

After the end of his contract with MGM in *Les Girls* (1957) Kelly turned increasingly to straight acting, in films like *Inherit the Wind* (1960), in which he played a cynical journalist based on H. L. Mencken, and to directing films in which he himself did not appear, most spectacularly *Hello Dolly!* in 1969. He also returned to the theatre, staging among other shows the Rodgers and Hammerstein *Flower Drum Song* and the spectacular, ill-fated *Clownaround*.

In 1974 he returned to his old home, MGM, as co-narrator of *That's Entertainment*, a compilation of great numbers from old MGM musicals. There was a sequel, directed by Kelly, *That's Entertainment Part Two* in 1976, introduced by him and Fred Astaire. Kelly also participated in a third dose of the same medicine, *That's Entertainment III* (1994), directed by Bud Friedgen and Michael J. Sheridan. Cyd Charisse, Lena Horne, Debbie Reynolds and Mickey Rooney were among the stars of Hollywood's past featured on that occasion, but not Fred Astaire, who had died in 1987.

Gene Kelly was three times married. His first marriage, in 1940, to the actress Betsy Blair ended in divorce in 1957. His second wife, a dance assistant, Jeanne Coyne, died in 1973. After her death Kelly raised their children. In 1990 he married the writer Patricia Ward and is survived by her and by the daughter of his first marriage and the son and daughter of his second.

## MAJOR-GENERAL REYNELL TAYLOR



Major-General Reynell Taylor, CB, Chief of Staff, HQ British Army of the Rhine, 1980-84, died from heart failure on January 22 aged 67. He was born on April 5, 1928.

REYNELL TAYLOR was the fifth generation of military officers in his family, three of whom became generals. His first military forebear, a 10th Hussar, was on Wellington's staff at Waterloo, and he is reputed to have almost caused the loss of the battle. He was sent to guide the Prussians in their attack on Napoleon's flank, but he lost his way, causing the near fatal delay to Blücher's intervention. Another forebear, Colonel William Morris, led the 17th Lancers at Balaklava.

Walter Reynell Taylor, the son of Colonel Richard Reynell Taylor of The King's Own Scottish Borderers, was educated at Wellington College, where he showed himself to be an extrovert, an able leader with a good brain, and a first-class athlete. He was head of school, head of house, captain of rugby and the Victor Ludorum in athletics. After attending one of the earliest postwar courses at Sandhurst, he was commissioned in the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, which he joined at Sabratha in Tripolitania in 1948.

The promise which he had shown at Wellington as a leader and games player was confirmed as a junior regimental officer with the addition of being a first-class horseman and polo player. He had a natural talent for leading his troops, who enjoyed being under his command, and he became one of the founder members of the Royal Armoured Corps' Junior Leaders' Regiment at Bovington.

He started his staff career in 1957 as a student at the Staff College, Camberley, to which, after a two-year exchange appointment in Canada, he was brought back as a Staff College instructor. As the GSO2 (Coord) he did much of the planning for the reintroduction of battlefield tours.

Promoted lieutenant-colonel in 1967, he went out to Singapore as a member of the Defence Planning Staff. The confrontation with Indonesia had just ended, and he was faced instead with the depressing business of planning the Wilson Government's withdrawal from the Far East. Luckily his tour was cut short by his being given command of his regiment in Germany in 1969; he returned to the Staff College as a full colonel two years later.

He was now moving up into the policymaking reaches of the Army. He had proved himself a man of high principles who worked tirelessly and optimistically, making many friends from all walks of life. Promoted brigadier in 1972, he

had a successful command of the 12th Mechanised Brigade at Osnabrück where his abilities and relaxed approach were reflected in a colleague's remark: "Everyone thoroughly enjoyed being in his brigade; he made it fun."

He spent 1975 at the Royal College of Defence Studies in Belgrave Square from which he entered the Ministry of Defence for the first time in the key appointment of Brigadier General Staff, Military Operations. It was a depressing period to serve in Whitehall: defence was suffering swinging financial cuts in the last days of the Callaghan Labour Government before Margaret Thatcher began to restore some of the damage.

He escaped from Whitehall on promotion to major-general in 1978 when he was appointed Commander British Troops, Cyprus, and administrator of the Sovereign Base Areas. This was a job he enjoyed and which came naturally to him. His outstanding negotiating skills, enthusiasm and determination helped to re-establish Anglo-Cypriot relations that had been so soured by the Turkish invasion of the island, which many Greek Cypriots accused Britain of failing to pre-empt. He was universally liked, and before he left in 1980 he acted as British Military Representative on the combined US/UK task force for the support of the Western nations in Beirut. He was appointed CB in 1981 for his services in Cyprus.

His last appointment in the Army was as Chief of Staff in HQ British Army of the Rhine. He retired in 1984 and went back to Cyprus where he had made many friends and contacts involved in Middle Eastern affairs. There he became Director of the Middle East Management Training Centre in Nicosia.

On his return to England in 1987, he bought a farm in Somerset. He took up a consultancy in the concrete industry, and latterly became marketing director of EST, the concrete plant specialists. He investigated and won approval from the Ministry of Defence for a joint venture scheme for the manufacture of the firm's range of concrete batching plants and for the transfer of technology to Saudi Arabia under the al-Yamamah economic offset programme. He spent a considerable time in the Gulf states promoting the project, and was well respected for his knowledge and diplomacy. He was still involved with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states at the time of his sudden death.

He married Doreen Myrtle Dodge in 1954. They had a son, who joined his father's regiment, and a daughter. His second wife, whom he married in 1982, was Rosemary Gardner (née Breed). They had one son. Both his families survive him.

## BRODRICK HALDANE



Brodrick Haldane, society photographer, died in hospital in Edinburgh on February 3 aged 83. He was born on July 12, 1912.

SIR Cecil Beaton, looking back shortly before his death at the great photographer whose pictures had chronicled prewar London society, observed: "Of course, it was Brodrick Haldane who began what we now call photojournalism. He was taking pictures at private parties long before me. He was really the founder of modern society photography."

Unlike Beaton, however, and also the Earls of Snowdon and Lichfield, of whom he was an early mentor, Haldane never used artificial and studio lighting, preferring always to capture his subjects in natural light. His camera, invariably a Rolleiflex, recorded great beauties like Marlene Dietrich and Margaret Duchess of Argyll with the same fidelity as a group of Stirling housewives, photographed like a flock of black crows against the fading light, or an Italian urchin gazing out to sea on the waterfront in Naples.

Brodrick Vernon Chinnery Haldane was born in Edinburgh into one of Scotland's great landed families. He was the youngest of the four children of James Brodrick Chinnery Haldane, 26th Laird of Gleneagles, and his wife, Katharine Napier. His cousins included the Liberal Lord Chancellor, Viscount Haldane of Cloan, the scientists John Scott Haldane and J. B. S. Haldane, and the novelist Naomi Mitchinson.

His boyhood was divided between Gleneagles, his family's 7,000-acre ancestral estate in Perthshire's Ochil Hills, and Alkeshellach, the Haldane mansion at Nether Lochaber, in Inverness-shire. While at Lancing College, he began contributing items to London gossip columns and in 1930, at a fête at Glamis Castle, he took his first professional photographs — of the Countess of Strathmore, mother of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother — using a Box Brownie. One indignant laird, who declined to pose for him that day, said to his father: "I trust this is merely a passing phase."

The Haldanes were against when he also became an actor, appearing with Sir Philip Ben Greet's company in *Everyman* at the Westminster Theatre, in several other West End productions, and also in films, including *Murder at Monte Carlo* with the young Errol Flynn; *Get Your Man*, with Rex Harrison; *Happy*, with Dorothy Hyson; and *Two Hearts in Waltz Time*, with Valerie Hobson.

His first great photographic coup was persuading the reclusive George Bernard Shaw to pose for him. Nervous and fumbling, as Haldane invariably was while working, he won the sympathy of Shaw, who rose from his chair and took a light reading for him. Somerset Maugham, Charles Chaplin, Noël Coward and Compton Mackenzie all became close friends, and visits to the South of France produced unusual pictures of Marlene Dietrich bathing, and a warm friendship with the future American President, John F. Kennedy, and his family.

The Queen Mother, a great admirer of Haldane's work, once rebuked her detective for impeding his view of her at a public function. "Mr Haldane is a friend of mine," said Her Majesty firmly. "Now, Brodrick, where would you like me to stand?" The Duchess of Windsor was equally obliging, patiently holding Haldane's flashbulbs at one party, while the late Aga Khan forgave him when those same flashbulbs exploded, showering him with fine glass.

In 1941, while serving with the Royal Artillery at Chatham — where he read *Vogue* between bomb attacks and

made a rocky around the gun emplacements — his father died and was succeeded as 27th Laird of Gleneagles by Brodrick's elder brother, Alex, a hero of Dunkirk. Thereafter, for almost 50 years, he was styled Younger of Gleneagles, until 1990, when his brother appointed his cousin, Martin Haldane — who, unlike Brodrick, was married with children — as his heir. It was Martin who succeeded as 28th Laird of Gleneagles in 1994 on the death of Alex.

A handsome man, somewhat vain about his appearance, Haldane stood on his head for five minutes every

morning to assist his hair growth, and underwent a facelift at 60 to remove lines from around his mouth.

His brother did not entirely approve: when, in 1976, he opened his ornate Georgian flat in Edinburgh to the public. There, he dispensed tea and gave a personal guided tour of such Haldane heirlooms as the wheelchair used by his novelist ancestor, Sir Walter Scott.

In 1992, at the age of 79, he made an unexpected return to acting, appearing as the Judge's Clerk in the Scottish television drama series, *The Advocates*.

By then, he had been long recognised as one of the most celebrated photographers in the world. Karsh of Ottawa called him "the greatest living British photographer" and both Lord Snowdon and Lord Lichfield publicly acknowledged their debt to his early help and influence.

Though suffering from cancer, Haldane travelled to Romania in April last year, and was received at Cotroceni Palace in Bucharest by President Ion Iliescu, of whom he took his last important photographs. "His visit displeased ex-King Michael of Romania, whose grandmother, Queen Marie, had known Haldane in his youth."

He was a great gossip; there was little of social consequence that was not first discussed in his drawing room before it became public. Never a snob, he ignored all social distinctions. His two maids and his former window cleaner were among his closest friends. His charm and savoir faire disguised a strong character.

Attempts to persuade him to abandon Margaret Duchess of Argyll, after the scandal of the late duke's divorce action against her, were resolutely rebuffed, and she remained a welcome guest in his home until her death.

During the last weeks of his life, he completed his autobiography with the help of the Scottish writer Roddy Martine. In his final interview, published last month, Haldane told Lynn Barber: "I don't care what you say about me, as long as you make it amusing."

He never married and is survived by his cousin Martin, the 28th Laird of Gleneagles.

## Church news

## Latest appointments include:

The Rev Jeremy Allcock, Curate-in-charge, St Luke, Walthamstow; to be Vicar, East Ham, St Paul (Chesham).

The Rev Philip Ashdown, Assistant Curate, Houghton-le-Spring (Durham); to be Assistant Curate, St Andrew-on-Tees (Durham), and Chaplain to University College, St John's (Durham).

The Rev John Bradley, Assistant Curate, Wadley, Sheffield; to be Assistant Curate, Mosborough (Sheffield).

The Rev Richard Brand, Curate, St John the Baptist, Croydon (South-west); to be Senior Curate, St Barnabas, Farnham, Christchurch, New Zealand.

The Rev Bryan Carrow, Rector, Cret and Little, Henry and Walsingham and Wickham St Paul Walsingham; to be also Assistant Rural Dean of Hinkford (Chesham).

The Rev Jane Clay, Assistant

Priest, Lupset St George; to be part-time Chaplain at New Hall Prison and Young Offenders Unit, Flockton, Wakefield (Wakefield).

The Rev Dr Mark Doreen, Curate, Harrogate, St Edmunds (Birmingham); to be Chaplain to The King's School, Worcester, and Minor Canon of Worcester Cathedral.

Canon Roger Gilbert, Rector, Fulmouth, an Honorary Canon of Tyrry Cathedral, and Rural Dean of Carmarthen South (Tyrry); to be a Chaplain to The Queen.

Canon Michael Glynn-Smith, Residentiary Canon of Ripon Cathedral; to be also Rural Dean of Ripon.

The Rev John Gooding, permission to officiate, diocese of Guildford; to be Assistant Curate, St John, Egham, same diocese.

The Rev Christopher Greenwood, Vicar, Nether Heyland St Andrew (Sheffield); to be Vicar, Kirk-

Vicar, Liskeard, St Keyne, St Pinnock, Marval and Bradock; to be Vicar, Landrake St Erney and Botus Fleming (Tyrry).

The Rev Jesse Van Der Valk, Vicar, Harrogate and Highbury (Wakefield); to be Vicar, St Mary Magdalene w St Michael and All Angels, Woolwich (Southwark).

The Rev Bruce Wallis, Curate, Maidstone St Martin (Canterbury); to be Team Vicar, Banbury Team Ministry (Oxford).

The Rev Carolyn Walling, presently in Saudi Arabia; to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Lee (Southwark).

The Rev Andrew White, Assistant Curate, St Matthew, Croydon; to be Curate, Holy Trinity, South Wimbledon (Southwark).

Other appointments

The Right Rev Geoffrey Rowell, Bishop of Bathurst, to be president of the governors of Pusey House, Oxford, succeeding Mr Philip Sturrock.

Resignations and retirements

Canon Dick Jones, Team Rector, St Peter w St Stephen and St Withelm, Bourne-mouth (Worcester); to retire March 31.

The Rev Roy Foreman, Team Vicar, St Mary w St Stephen, Walthamstow (Chesham); to retire on October 31.

The Rev Raymond Hayne, Vicar, Reading St Mark (Oxford); to retire on April 30.

The Rev Dr Ann Shukman, NSM, Steple Aston w North Aston and Tackley (Oxford); to retire, with permission to officiate, same diocese.

## MR HEATH STEPS DOWN AFTER 11-VOTE DEFEAT BY MRS THATCHER

By David Wood

Political Editor

The contest for the Conservative Party leadership now lies between Mrs Thatcher and Mr William Whitelaw, the Conservative Party chairman. After Mr Heath had withdrawn last night under the blow of a defeat by Mrs Thatcher on the first ballot, Mr Whitelaw came under strong pressure from a group of backbenchers to declare his candidature for the second ballot.

Like many other Conservatives, Mr Whitelaw is conscious of the personal tragedy that has overwhelmed Mr Heath. It would be a callous politician who failed to recognize it. Mr Heath continues nominally as Opposition leader until the new leader has emerged on the second or third ballot, but in fact he has asked Mr Robert Carr, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, to undertake his duties in the House. He is retreating into the background, badly hurt but not finished.

There is no doubt that Mr Whitelaw or Mrs Thatcher, if elected leader, would immediately call him on to the front bench to play a full part in the revival of the Conservative Party and the

## ON THIS DAY

February 5, 1975

In the Tory leadership election that brought Mrs Thatcher to power, she won 146 votes against Mr Whitelaw's 79 on the second ballot. Mr Heath never again sat on the front bench.

Opposition in the Commons... Mrs Thatcher, surrounded by her backbench promoters last night, refused to assume the final victory that would make her the first woman party leader and the first potential woman Prime Minister in British history. She simply said that she would fight the second ballot and then the third ballot. She showed how steady she can be and noted the importance of her first ballot lead, but she added that the fight had not yet ended.

Mrs Thatcher, like Conservative backbenchers, knows that among her votes may be some that were tactically cast to ensure a

second ballot, rather than to ensure her emergence as the new leader. Mr Fraser's 16 votes probably had an anti-feminine motivation and therefore cannot be counted on. Nor can the 11 blank papers or abstentionist votes.

For there is little doubt that yesterday the Conservative rank and file was voting out Mr Heath rather than picking its new leader... Mr Heath has to summon up all his remarkable sources of courage. He will face the scorn of the House as best he can and it would be a meagre spirit that did not feel for him... Mrs Thatcher, in her first public appearance as a potential party leader last night, showed her mettle and her quality. An hour after the result of the count had been declared, she appeared in committee room 14 to face the television cameras, the radio microphones, the photographers, and journalists.

Characteristically, she set out to dominate the company. She called for the cameras to be stilled. At first, an over-excited group of journalists ignored her request. She made clear that she would not be disobeyed; and when she realized that the microphones were still working she thrust them right and left, away from her, with both hands.

It was a remarkable and commanding debut and in an important sense illustrated what kind of party leader she would be...



